

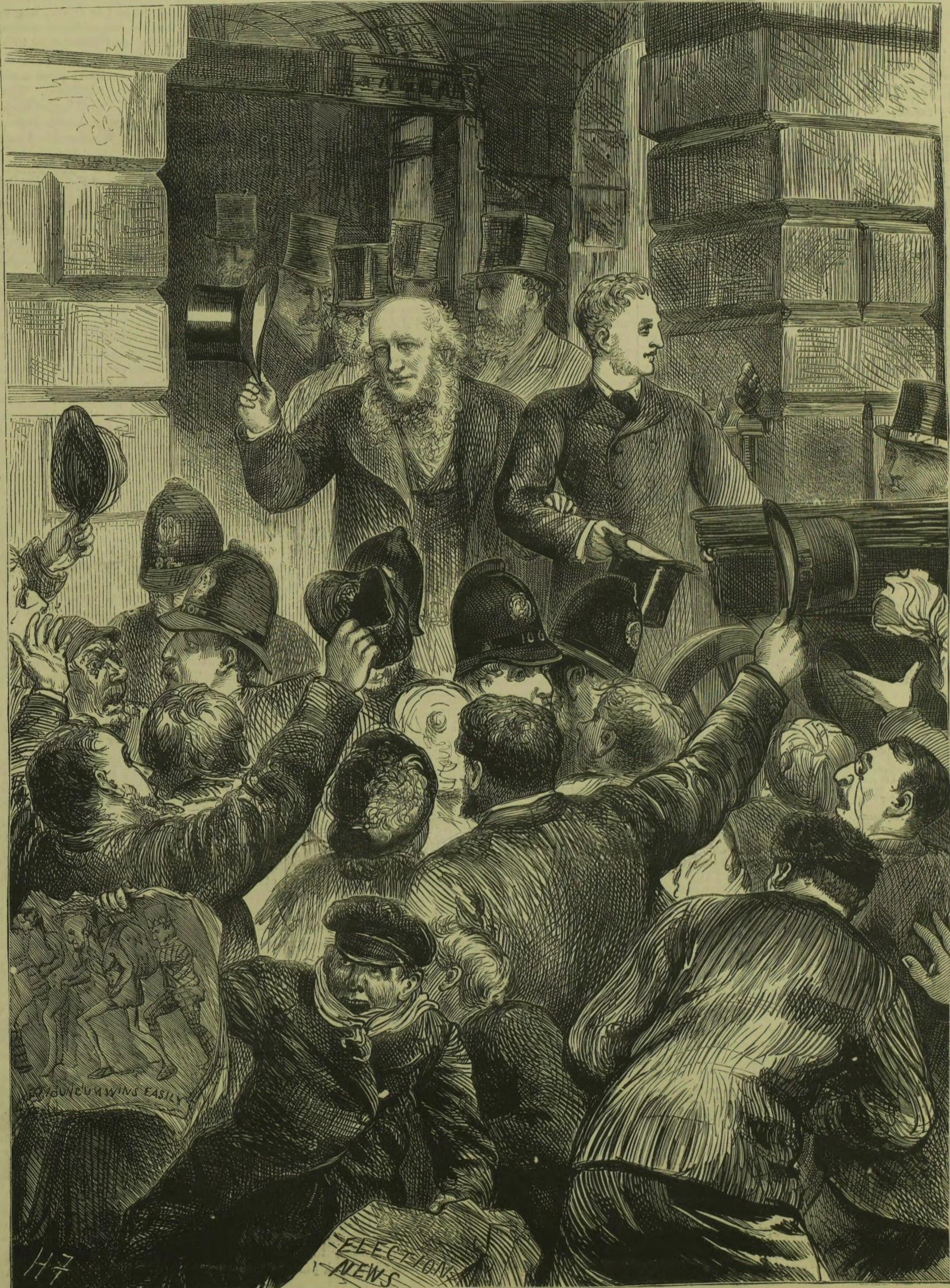
THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

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No. 2124.—VOL. LXXVI.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1880.

WITH } SIXPENCE.
SUPPLEMENT } BY POST, 6½D.



ELECTIONEERING AT LIVERPOOL: SCENE AT THE TOWNHALL AFTER THE NOMINATION.—SEE PAGE 147.

BIRTHS.

On the 5th inst., at Portland Villas, South Norwood, Fanny, the wife of W. G. Steward, of a son.

On Dec. 22, at Kingston, Jamaica, the wife of John Alex. Duntze, of a daughter.

On the 6th inst., at 27, Grosvenor-street, Lady Brown, of Astrop, Banbury, of a daughter.

On the 7th inst., at Titlington Hall, Alnwick, the Hon. Mrs. Hargrave Pawson, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On the 7th inst., at the parish church, Wickham, Charles Stuart, eldest son of Sir Clinton Murdoch, K.C.M.G., to Frances Bliss, third daughter of the late Admiral Wainwright.

On the 4th inst., at St. Mary's Church, Cadogan-street, Chelsea, the Earl of Loudoun, to the Hon. Alice Mary Elizabeth Fitzalan Howard, third daughter of Lord Howard of Glossop.

On the 10th inst., at St. George's, Hanover-square, the Earl of Ranfurly, to Constance Elizabeth, only child of Lieutenant-Colonel James Alfred and the Hon. Mrs. Caulfield, of Drumcarne, in the county of Tyrone.

DEATHS.

On the 8th inst., at 22, Kidbrook-grove, Blackheath, James Montgomery, elder son of the late Malcolm Montgomery, in his 27th year.

On the 6th inst., at Brownhill, Rochdale, Norman John, third son of Edmund and Augusta Royds, aged 10 months.

On the 3rd inst., at Rockwood, in the county of Tyrone, Catherine Jane Jarvis, Countess of Chesterfield.

On the 8th inst., at 17, Cambridge-square, Hyde Park, Letitia, widow of David Hill, Esq., and daughter of the late Sir Francis Workman Macnaghten, Bart.

On the 7th inst., at 51, Onslow-gardens, Margaret, widow of the Hon. and Rev. Sir Francis J. Stapleton, Bart.

On the 7th inst., at Château Dumont, Boulogne-sur-Mer, Agnes Blanche Fullerton Armstrong, youngest daughter of the late Sir Andrew Armstrong, Bart., of Gallon Priory, County Kingstown, Ireland.

On the 7th inst., at his residence, The Grove, Highgate, Francis Smith, of No. 15, Furnival's Inn, and Widdington, Essex, in his 69th year.

* The charge for the insertion of Births, Marriages, or Deaths is Five Shillings for each announcement.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 21.

SUNDAY, FEB. 15.

First Sunday in Lent. Morning Lessons: Gen. xix. 12-30; Matt. xxv. 31. Evening Lessons: Gen. xxii. 1-20 or xxiii. Acts xviii. 17. St. Paul's Cathedral, 10.30 a.m., Rev. Dr. Prebendary Irons; 3.15 p.m., Bishop Clapham; 7 p.m., Rev. F. J. Holland. Sermons on Wednesdays and Fridays during Lent, 4 p.m. St. James's, noon, the Bishop of Sodor and Man.

MONDAY, FEB. 16.

St. Paul's Cathedral: midday services (five days), Rev. V. S. Coles. Royal College of Surgeons, 4 p.m. (Professor W. K. Parker on the Vertebrate Skeleton—and on Wednesday and Friday). Asiatic Society, 4 p.m. (Professor F. Max Müller on the Discovery of Sanskrit in Japan; Mr. J. W. Redhouse on the Identification of the "Zodiacal Light" with the "False Dawn" of Moslems). London Institution, 5 p.m. (Professor Monier Williams on Indian Religious Life). Medical Society, 8.30 p.m. Victoria Institute, 8 p.m. (paper by Rev. C. Engström).

TUESDAY, FEB. 17.

Levée by the Prince of Wales, St. James's, 2 p.m. National Orthopaedic Hospital, Great Portland-street, anniversary, 2 p.m. Royal Institution, 3 p.m. (Professor Schäfer on the Physiology of Muscle). Humane Society, committee, 4 p.m. Institution of Civil Engineers, 8 p.m. (Discussion on Iron and Steel at Low Temperatures; if time, Mr. W. H. Delam on the Use of Asphalt and Bitumen in Engineering). Pathological Society, 8.30 p.m. Statistical Society, 7.45 p.m. Zoological Society, 8.30 p.m. (Professor W. H. Flower on the Bush Dog; papers by Messrs. Bridge and Haddon, and by Mr. W. A. Forbes).

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18.

Ember Day. Moon's first quarter, 3.46 a.m. Guild of St. Luke's, 7.30 p.m. (Mr. A. K. Willis on Moderation as applied to Alcohol). Dental Surgery Association, 8.30 p.m. British Archaeological Association, 8 p.m. (Mr. T. G. Pinches on Terra-Cotta Tablets found in Assyria and Babylon; Mr. H. Syer (Cuming on a Portrait of Henry VI. in Eye). Society of Arts, 8 p.m. (Mr. W. P. Andrew on the Euphrates Valley Railway).

THURSDAY, FEB. 19.

William III., King of the Netherlands, born 1817. Royal Institution, 3 p.m. (Professor Dewar on Recent Chemical Progress). London Institution, 7 p.m. (Sir Travers Twiss on the Laws of the Crusaders in Cyprus). Numismatic Society, 7 p.m. Royal Society, 8.30 p.m. Chemical Society, 8 p.m. Royal Society Club, 6.30 p.m. Society of Antiquaries, 8.30 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 20.

Ember Day. Princess Louise of Wales born, 1867. Accession of Pope Leo XIII., 1878. Drawing-room to be held by the Queen, Buckingham Palace, 3 p.m. City of London College, 6 p.m. (Dr. Heinemann on Political Economy—Credit). Geological Society, anniversary, 1 p.m.; dinner, 6 p.m. Philological Society, 8 p.m. (Mr. Russell Martineau on the Rethoromanian Dialect, Part II.).

SATURDAY, FEB. 21.

Ember Day. Royal Albert Hall Amateur Orchestral Society, second smoking concert, 9.30 p.m.

ST. JAMES'S HALL, PICCADILLY.

ALL THE YEAR ROUND.

MOORE AND BURGESS MINSTRELS, EVERY NIGHT AT EIGHT.

MONDAYS,

WEDNESDAYS, and SATURDAYS, 1st and 2nd EIGHT.

Fanteuils, 5s.; Sofa Stalls, 2s.; Area, 2s.; Gallery, 1s. No fees. No charge for programme. Ladies can retain their bonnets in all parts of the Hall. Doors open at 2.30 for day performances; 7.30 for the evening performances.

Every West-End omnibus runs to the doors of the Hall.

DORÉ'S GREAT WORKS.—"ECCE HOMO" ("Full of divine dignity"—The Times) and "THE ASCENSION;" "CHRIST LEAVING THE PERGAMON;" "CHRIST ENTERING JERUSALEM," with all his other Great Pictures.—DORÉ GALLERY, 35, New Bond-street. Daily, 10 to 6. 1s.

INSTITUTE OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS. THE FOURTEENTH WINTER EXHIBITION IS NOW OPEN, from Ten till Six. Admission, One Shilling. Catalogue, Sixpence. H. F. PHILLIPS, Secretary.

MIDDLE. JANOTHA'S PIANOFORTE RECITAL will take place on THURSDAY AFTERNOON, FEB. 26, in ST. JAMES'S HALL, to commence at Three o'clock. Sofa Stalls, 7s. ed.; Balcony, 4s.; Admission, 1s. Programmes and Tickets of Chappell and Co., No. 50, New Bond-street, and 15, Poultry. Keith, Prowse, and Co., No. 48, Cheapside; Hays, Royal Exchange-buildings; Stanley Lucas and Co., New Bond-street; Mitchell and Olivier, Old Bond-street; and of Austin, 28, Piccadilly.

THEATRE ROYAL, COVENT GARDEN.—Under the Management of Messrs. A. and S. Gatti.—Grand Christmas Pantomime "SINDBAD THE SAILOR." "The greatest success ever known!"—Vide public press. EVERY EVENING, at a Quarter to Eight. MORNING PERFORMANCES every WEDNESDAY, and SATURDAY, at Two. Box-Office under the portico of the Theatre; open daily from Ten to Five. No Booking Fees.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—MERCHANT OF VENICE. One Hundred Performances. EVERY EVENING at Eight o'clock. STYLLOC, Mr. Irving; PORTIA, Miss Ellen Terry. MORNING PERFORMANCES EVERY SATURDAY DURING FEBRUARY. Seats booked Six Weeks in advance.

CANTERBURY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Under Royal Patronage.—Best Entertainment in the World. Variety Artists at Eight. MR. A. G. VANCE, the Renowned Vocal Comedian. MR. ARTHUR LLOYD, Madame MASOTTA, &c. PERI OF PERU at 9.10—Miss Nelly Power, M. Dewime, Miles, Alice Holt, Broughton, Aguzzi, Powell, and Corps de Ballet. At 10.30 the Grand Mystical Ballet ETHEREA, in which Ariel introduces her extraordinary Flying Dance and mysteriously Flights in Mid Air, crossing and recrossing the stage at pleasure. "It is so astonishing that to be believed it must be seen."—Sporting and Dramatic News.

MR. AND MRS. GERMAN REED'S ENTERTAINMENT, ST. GEORGE'S HALL, Langham-place. Managers, Messrs. Alfred Reed and Corney Grain. MONDAY, FEB. 16, first time of a New First Part entitled CASTLE BOTHERE, by Arthur Law. Music by Hamilton Clarke; followed by OUR TABLE D'HÔTE, by Mr. Corney Grain; concluding with BACK FROM INDIA. Every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday Evenings, at Eight. Morning Performances every Thursday and Saturday, at Three. Admission, 1s. 2s.; Stalls, 3s. and 5s.

CHRISTIAN EVIDENCE SOCIETY.—A PUBLIC MEETING on behalf of the above Society will be held at the MANSION HOUSE on FRIDAY, FEB. 20, 1880, at Three o'clock. The Right Hon. the Lord Mayor will preside. Speakers: Right Rev. Bishop Clapham (Archdeacon of London); Rev. H. Sinclair Paterson, M.D.; Rev. J. Russell Stock, M.A.; Sir T. Powell Buxton, Bart.; Alderman McArthur, M.P.; F. A. Bevan, Esq. Offices, 13, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C.

GRATIS.

TWO HUNTING PICTURES,

PRINTED IN COLOURS.

With Next Week's Number will be given a Coloured Picture, Page Size, "NECK AND NECK," from a Drawing by J. Sturgess; and on the following week a Companion Picture, "DEAD BEAT," by the same Artist, will be given.

Office, 198, Strand, W.C.

THE WEATHER.

RESULTS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS AT THE KEW OBSERVATORY OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY.

Lat. 51° 28' 6" N.; Long. 0° 18' 47" W. Height above Sea, 34 feet.

DAY.	DAILY MEANS OF			THERMOM.		General Direction.	Movement in 24 hours, read at 10 A.M. next morning.
	Barometer, Corrected	Temperature of the Air.	Dew Point.	Relative Humidity.	Amount of Cloud.		
February 1	30.29	30°	30°	0°	97 2	45°3 26°0	S. 17 0'000
2	30.32	34°1	34°1	1°0	7 44°1 24°7	S. W. SW. 76 0'010	
3	30.408	39°8	39°8	1°7	97 10 44°1 36°7	SSW. SSW. 60 0'000	
4	30.325	32°2	32°2	1°0	" 41°3 28°2	SSW. 35 0'000	
5	30.039	34°8	32°5	9°2	7 44°0 27°1	SW. SSW. 157 0'020	
6	29.820	42°9	41°9	9°6	10 45°9 40°0	SSW. S. 347 0'075	
7	29.593	46°4	45°3	9°6	10 48°3 45°2	SSW. S. 394 0'400	

The following are the readings of the meteorological instruments for the above days, in order, at ten o'clock, a.m.:

Barometer (in inches) corrected .. 30.333 30.338 30.441 30.300 30.114 29.866 29.684

Temperature of Air .. 27°9 28°9 30°4 31°10 31°10 42°6 45°8

Temperature of Evaporation .. 27°9 28°5 29°8 30°8 30°8 42°7 45°2

Direction of Wind .. S. S. WSW. SSW. S. WSW. S. SSW. S. SSW.

Wind, read at 10 A.M. next morning.

Barometer, read at 10 A.M. next morning.

Temperature of Air, read at 10 A.M. next morning.

Temperature of Evaporation, read at 10 A.M. next morning.

Direction of Wind, read at 10 A.M. next morning.

Wind, read at 10 A.M. next morning.

Barometer, read at 10 A.M. next morning.

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Barometer, read at 10 A.M. next morning.

Temperature of Air, read at 10 A.M. next morning.

Temperature of Evaporation, read at 10 A.M. next morning.

Direction of Wind, read at 10 A.M. next morning.

of Wight. Her Majesty drove to Victoria station, escorted by a detachment of the 1st Life Guards, and travelled by special train, via Clapham Junction, to Stokes Bay, whence she crossed in the Royal yacht Alberta, Captain Thomson, to Osborne, arriving at two o'clock. Prince Leopold returned to Claremont from Buckingham Palace.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice attended Divine service on Sunday, performed at Osborne by the Rev. George Connor, Vicar of Newport. Earl Beauchamp, Lord Steward, arrived at Osborne on Monday, and had an audience of her Majesty to present an Address from the House of Lords. Princess Beatrice drove to Ryde. Tuesday was the fortieth anniversary of the marriage of the Queen and the Prince Consort. Her Majesty has taken her usual daily drives. The Hon. Amy Lambart has succeeded the Hon. Mary Lascelles as Maid of Honour in Waiting.

The Queen wore at the opening of Parliament a dress and train of black velvet trimmed with miniver, and a long white tulle veil, surmounted by the crown in diamonds. Her Majesty also wore a necklace and earrings of large diamonds, the Koh-i-noor as a brooch, the ribbon and star of the Order of the Garter, and the Orders of Victoria and Albert and the Crown of India.

The Princess of Wales wore a dress of dark vanille velvet draped with pale vanille and silver brocade, and bordered in dark fur; corsage to correspond. Her Royal Highness also wore a tiara of diamonds, feathers, and veil, and diamond ornaments, with the Orders of Victoria and Albert, the Star of India, St. Catherine of Russia, and the Danish family orders.

Princess Beatrice wore a dress of pale blue velvet, trimmed with satin, and a head-dress of feathers, with veil, and diamond stars. Her Royal Highness also wore a necklace of diamonds, a pearl and diamond pendant, earrings, and brooch, with the Orders of Victoria and Albert, the Crown of India, and the Saxe-Coburg and Gotha family orders.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES.

The Prince of Wales was present at the latest meeting of the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, at their offices in Hanover-square. His Excellency the Russian Ambassador (Prince Lobanoff) was received by the Prince and Princess of Wales at Marlborough House immediately after his arrival in town last week. The Prince and Princess were present at the first debate in the House of Lords. The Prince presided on Saturday at a meeting of the Council of his Royal Highness, held at the office of the Duchy of Cornwall, Buckingham Gate. Princess Christian, who had been on a visit to their Royal Highnesses, left Marlborough House. The Princess, accompanied by Princess Frederica of Hanover, went to the afternoon Saturday Popular Concert at St. James's Hall. The Prince and Princess and Princesses Louise, Victoria, and Maud of Wales attended Divine service on Sunday at the Chapel Royal, St. James's. The Rev. the Sub-Dean, the Rev. A. H. Stillwell, and the Hon. and Rev. Canon Phipps officiated. On Monday the Prince and Princess visited Mr. Boehm's studio in the Fulham-road to inspect the model of the recumbent monument of the late Prince Louis Napoleon, and afterwards visited Miss Thompson's studio. In the evening their Royal Highnesses, accompanied by Princess Frederica of Hanover, went to the Monday Popular Concert at St. James's Hall. On Tuesday evening the Prince and Princess witnessed the performance of Sir Julius Benedict's opera, "The Lily of Kilcarney," by the Carl Rosa opera company, at Her Majesty's Theatre. The Princess has visited the Winter Exhibition at the Royal Academy. The Prince's hunting stud has arrived at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park, from Sandringham. His Royal Highness has consented to lay the foundation-stone of Truro Cathedral on Thursday, May 20 next.

Colonel A. Ellis has succeeded Colonel Teesdale as Equerry in Waiting to the Prince.

The Prince has presented to the Zoological Society a fine series of Indian pheasants from his aviaries at Sandringham, and also presented to the society two examples of the rare Himalayan wild goat, known as the *tahr* (*capra temnala*), one of which was brought back from India on the Prince's return in 1876, the other being born in England from the pair introduced on that occasion.

THE EMPRESS OF AUSTRIA.

The Empress of Austria hunted for the second time since her arrival with the Ward hounds on Monday. Prince Leichtenstein accompanied her Majesty. The Empress has also hunted with the Meath hounds, the meet being at Dangan Gate. Her Majesty has given £200 towards the relief of the poor in Ireland.

The Duke of Edinburgh yesterday week distributed the prizes to the successful students of the Metropolitan Drawing Classes in connection with the Science and Art Department at the Guildhall. In the evening his Royal Highness dined with the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress at the Mansion House. The Duchess of Edinburgh is at St. Petersburg.

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught, accompanied by Princess Henry of the Netherlands, paid a visit to the Royal Albert Orphan Asylum, Bagshot, last week. After inspecting the various details of the institution their Royal Highnesses proceeded to the dining-hall, where the 220 orphan children were assembled, and received from the hands of the Head Master, on behalf of the children, the Royal standard, with Coburg arms and Connaught badge inserted, which had been made by the boys from a design sent from Heralds' College, and other specimens of needlework by the girls and boys. The Duke and Duchess have signified their intention of being present at a grand national ball, now in course of organisation, which will take place in the Exhibition Palace in May next, in honour of the first visit of her Royal Highness to Ireland.

The Marquis and Marchioness of Ripon had a dinner party on Tuesday at their residence in Carlton-gardens. Later Lady Ripon held a small reception. Countess Stanhope held a reception on Saturday evening at her residence in Grosvenor-place. Previously the Earl and Countess had a dinner party. The Earl of Mayo gave a ball at Palmerstown House, Naas, county Kildare, last week, which was attended by several hundreds of the members of the county families. Mr. Albert Brassey and the Hon. Mrs. Brassey gave a fancy-dress ball last week at their seat, Heythrop Park, Oxfordshire, and was attended by upwards of 300 guests. Mrs. Smith had an evening party at the First Lord's official residence at the Admiralty on the eve of opening Parliament. The seventeenth annual grand naval and military fancy-dress ball in aid of the local charities of Brighton was held on Monday evening at the Royal Pavilion, under the immediate patronage of an influential committee of lady patronesses. The company numbered between 500 and 600, the larger portion appearing in fancy dress. The band of the 16th (Queen's) Lancers was in attendance. A grand military promenade concert was given on Tuesday afternoon in the large dome.

The Right Hon. the Speaker commences his Parliamentary dinners on Wednesday next.

Tuesday's *Gazette* contains a notice that the Queen has granted to Henry Cavendish-Bentinck, William Augustus Cavendish-Bentinck, Charles Cavendish-Bentinck, and Ottoline

Violet Anne Cavendish-Bentinck, the half-brothers and sister respectively of the present Duke of Portland, the same title, place, pre-eminence, and precedence as if their father, the late Lieutenant-General Arthur Cavendish-Bentinck, had succeeded to the title and dignity of Duke of Portland.

FASHIONABLE MARRIAGES.

The Earl of Loudoun was married on the 4th inst. to the Hon. Alice Mary Elizabeth Fitzalan Howard, third daughter of Lord Howard of Glossop, at St. Mary's Church, Cadogan-street, Chelsea, according to the rites of the Roman Catholic Church. Mr. Rawdon Clifton was best man. The bride was accompanied by her father. The bridesmaids were the Hon. Mary and the Hon. Winifred Fitzalan Howard, her sisters; Lady Margaret Howard, Lady Ermytrude Russell, Lady Margaret Stuart, the Hon. Josephine Bertie, the Hon. Mary Anne Maxwell, and Miss de Lisle. The bride's dress was of white satin trimmed with point de gaze, and a veil of point d'Angleterre. Her jewels comprised a diamond tiara, diamond necklace, diamond spray, pearl and diamond earrings, a pearl bracelet, and a diamond and cat's-eye bracelet. The bridesmaids were attired in short skirts and polonaises of ruby velvet, with ruby velvet toques, with bows of cream lace, and cream lace collars. Each of the bridesmaids wore suspended from a gold chain a gold enamelled locket in the form of an old Saxon shield, on which were impaled the arms of the Houses of Loudoun and Howard in their heraldic colours, surmounted by an Earl's coronet, with tie and loop jewelled in brilliants. They were the gift of the bridegroom. The ceremony was performed by the Right Rev. Monsignor Weld, assisted by the Very Rev. Canon Macmillan. Lord and Lady Howard of Glossop entertained a large party at breakfast at their residence at Rutland-gate. The Earl of Loudoun and his bride left for Willesley Hall, Ashly-de-la-Zouch, for their honeymoon. The bride's travelling dress was of plum-coloured velvet with brocaded front, a jacket to match trimmed with sable, and velvet bonnet. The wedding presents were very numerous, and of great value. Prince Leopold's gift was an ivory stirrup travelling clock.

The marriage of the Earl of Ranfurly with Miss Constance Elizabeth Caulfield, only child of Lieutenant-Colonel and the Hon. Mrs. J. A. Caulfield, was solemnised on Tuesday at St. George's Church, Hanover-square. The bride, who was attended by seven bridesmaids, wore a dress of white satin, trimmed with Brussels lace, and, over a wreath of orange-blossoms, a veil to match. Her ornaments consisted of a diamond tiara, necklace, cross, and earrings, the gift of the bridegroom, and a bracelet set with diamonds and pearls, presented to her on the occasion of her marriage by the ladies of Dungannon. The bridesmaids' toilettes were of white striped satin and white caps, with bunches of silver shamrocks, and each carried a bouquet of white flowers and a fan presented by the bridegroom. Mr. Rimington Wilson was best man. The ceremony was performed by the Ven. Archdeacon Knox, assisted by the Rev. Nevile Sherbrooke. Lord and Lady Ranfurly left for Paris en route for Marseilles, where they join his Lordship's yacht for a cruise in the Mediterranean.

A marriage is arranged between Miss Katherine Cecilia, elder daughter of the Right Hon. E. H. Knatchbull-Hugessen, M.P., of Smeeth Paddocks, Kent, and Queen Anne's-gate, Westminster, and Mr. Francis Alexander Mackinnon, eldest son of Mr. W. A. Mackinnon, late M.P. for Lymington, of Acrise Park, Canterbury, and Hyde Park-place.

THE CHURCH.

PREFERMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Blosse, Robert C. Lynch, to be Curate of Christian Malford, Chippenham.
Blyth, T. A.; Curate of Thame, Oxon.
Bulstrode, George; Rector of St. Mary Stoke, Ipswich.
Forbes, Dr.; Vicar of St. Olave's, Jewry.
Garde, T. H., Senior Curate of Bedminster; Rector of Shenley, Bucks.
Hilton, A. G.; Rector of Witcombe.
Kearney, Alexander; Archdeacon of Elphin.
Langley, W.; Rector of Narborough, near Leicester.
Long, Ernest Henry Kellett; Rector of Tickencote, Rutlandshire.
Newton, Henry, Vicar of Wraysbury; Rector of Horton, Bucks.
Payne, Alfred; Vicar of Baldersby, Thirsk.
Robinson, George Croke; Assistant-Priest of St. Philip's, Sydenham.
Truell, W. H. A., Rector of Chettle, Dorset; Vicar of Bramshaw.—*Guardian*.

The Archbishop of Canterbury arrived at the board-room of Queen Anne's Bounty office, Westminster, shortly before eleven o'clock yesterday week, and formally opened Convocation. His Grace immediately adjourned both Houses until April 20 next, to meet for the dispatch of business.

A circular letter has been issued by the Bishop of Salisbury in which he calls attention to a series of Lent sermons to be given in the cathedral. He expresses the hope that the services will impress upon his neighbours and friends and himself "the value of the sacred season, of more constant prayer, of fasting and abstinence," to prepare the way for a "holy and a happy Easter."

The Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol on Tuesday opened the new sailors' church in Prince-street, Bristol, close to the docks. The building was filled with clergy, sailors, and ladies and gentlemen interested in the work. The cost of the church (£4500) is borne by Mr. W. F. Lavington, a merchant of Bristol. Having watched the work of the Missions to Seamen Society in the port of Bristol for some years, and being alive to its value, he decided to build a church and institute.

The Rev. A. V. Hughes-Hallett, British Chaplain at Bruges, writes to the *Pall Mall Gazette*:—"My attention has been called to a paragraph in which it is stated that 'the Rev. W. J. Knox Little has been holding a series of services in the English church at Bruges.' Such statement being without the slightest foundation of truth, I trust you will do me the favour of contradicting it. Mr. Knox Little has never held any services or officiated in any way in the English church at Bruges."

THE UNIVERSITIES AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

At Oxford Mr. John Alexander Newsome, from Christ's Hospital, and Mr. Edward Francis Johns, from Bradfield College, have been elected to Open Exhibitions at Exeter. The following have been elected to Open Classical Exhibitions at Trinity:—Mr. H. P. Tregarthen and Mr. R. St. John Ainslie, from Sherborne School; Mr. H. C. Cookson, from Clifton College.

At Cambridge the Smith's Prizes, given annually to two commencing Bachelors of Arts, the best proficients in mathematics and natural science, have been adjudged as follows:—1st prize, John Larmor, B.A., Scholar of St. John's College, Senior Wrangler, 1880; 2nd prize, Joseph John Thomson, B.A., Scholar of Trinity College, Second Wrangler, 1880. C. H. Alcock, of Emmanuel, Ninth Wrangler in 1878, has been elected to a Fellowship at that college. At Corpus the Prize for English Literature has been awarded to Robert Edwin Johnston and Samuel Sathianadhan, who are declared equal in merit. The Yorke Prize, given annually for the best essay upon some subject relating to "The Law of Property, its Principles and History in various Ages and Countries," has

been adjudged (for the year 1879) to Courtney Stanhope Kenny, LL.M., Fellow of Downing College.

The names of twenty-nine ladies appear in the list of candidates who passed the matriculation examination at the London University in January. Two of them are in the Honours Division, and one of these, Alice Elizabeth Lee, of Bedford College, London, is at the top of the list, but is disqualified by age for the first exhibition. Seventeen ladies passed in the first division, and five in the second division.

A new Grammar School on an extensive scale is about to be provided at Crewkerne, the tender of Mr. William Travena, of Plymouth, £6547, having been accepted. At Dorchester, also, the erection of a Grammar School under a revised scheme of the Charity Commissioners is to be begun. It is hoped that at the latter town an important school will be established.

THE LIVERPOOL ELECTION.

The contest between Lord Ramsay, son of the Earl of Dalhousie, and Mr. Edward Whitley, solicitor, for the representation of Liverpool in the House of Commons, terminated yesterday week in favour of Mr. Whitley and the Conservative party. Some illustrations of the lively scenes attending this sharp political competition, which had been watched by the whole country with the strongest interest, appeared in our last publication. We now present two more pages of Engravings. The first of these represents the two rival candidates, after their formal nomination on the Tuesday, walking arm-in-arm together out of the Townhall, at the door of which, after receiving the plaudits of their respective supporters in the crowd outside, they courteously took leave of one another, Lord Ramsay entering his carriage to go to the Reform Club, and Mr. Whitley to the Conservative Club. The police are seen keeping the doorway clear; while amidst the crowd is a man selling broadsheets of "Election News," and a paper which displays a comical picture of both candidates stripped for a race or walking-match; the elder gentleman being heavily weighted with a load of responsibility for Tory sins, and the betting supposed to be in favour of "the young 'un." The Sketches that fill our second page of Engravings represent a variety of incidents; Lady Ramsay, with a large bouquet in her hand, graciously accepting the salutations of her husband's enthusiastic friends, men, women, and children; portraits of Mr. A. B. Forwood and Mr. Billson, two of the leading local politicians; and specimens of the different kinds of vehicles impressed into the service of carrying voters to the poll on the Friday, one of them driven at furious speed in the last few minutes before it closed. The declaration of the poll took place at the Townhall, a quarter before eight in the evening, when large numbers of people had gathered there to hear the numbers announced. These were as follows:—Mr. Whitley, 26,106 votes; Lord Ramsay, 23,885; giving Mr. Whitley a majority of 2221. The total number polled was 50,359, of which 367 were spoiled votes. After the declaration of the poll Lord Ramsay's friends assembled in front of the Adelphi Hotel, and the others at the Imperial Hotel, to cheer their respective candidates, who spoke a few parting words of thanks.

THE THUNDERER GREAT GUN.

The experimental trials, at Woolwich, to see how one of the thirty-eight ton guns of H.M.S. Thunderer could be made to burst, were brought to a satisfactory termination, by the final explosion of the gun, on Tuesday week. Our readers will remember, as before stated, that there were two of these great guns in the fore-turret of that ship, on Jan. 2, 1879, at the anchorage of the British Mediterranean squadron in the Bay of Ismid, Sea of Marmora, when one of the guns, in the course of gunnery practice, happened to burst, and killed a dozen men. There was an official inquiry at Malta, and the ship was sent home, with a proposal to have the remaining gun subjected to a series of practical tests, by a variety of improper charges, deliberately arranged and applied, in order to ascertain by what accidental fault in loading, or in what other manner, the gun on board the ship might have been destroyed. We have already described the gun, which cost £3500, and was 19 ft. long, 5 ft. thick at the breech, 3½ ft. in the middle, and 2 ft. at the muzzle, with a bore of 12 in. diameter, rifled in nine grooves. It was formed of a steel tube, with several thick coils of wrought iron shrunk upon it. The gun was mounted upon an iron carriage, in a cell, 8 ft. wide, formed in a mound of earth nearly 60 ft. square, built up 20 ft. high, and supported with masonry, and with beams and planks inside, as shown in our Illustration; in front of the muzzle was a long gallery, timber-framed, which was filled with sand-bags, to arrest the shot from the gun, and to catch the flying splinters when it burst. This structure was the work of the Royal Engineers, under the superintendence of Captain O'Brien, directed by Colonel Noble, R.E. The members of the War Office Committee on Ordnance, and a large company of Artillery officers, were present at the final experiment. The last loading of the gun took place under the direction of Captain Morley, R.A., the proof-officer. First was inserted the battering charge of 110 lb. of pebble powder, followed by an empty Palliser shell, weighing with its gas check, 705 lb. In front of this came the usual wad. Then the gun received a "full charge," consisting of 85 lb. of pebble powder, followed by an empty common shell, weighing with its gas check, about 590 lb., this again having in its front a wad. The total loading of powder and shot thus arranged extended ten feet up the bore, but this was reduced some few inches by powerful ramming, so as to reproduce, as near as might be, the effect of the extra ramming which the double charge is known to have received from the hydraulic machinery on board the Thunderer. All being thus arranged, the gun was fired by electricity, with a deep booming sound and a cloud of smoke from the two openings in the mound. The spectators came from the embankment on the riverside, and examined the burst gun, which bore an appearance exactly resembling that of the gun which burst in the turret. A front view of the one was almost identical with a front view of the other. The only difference was that the middle portion of the gun, consisting of what is called the 1 B coil, was not only shattered by the detonating force of the front cartridge, but had torn away part of the outer coil of the breech, called the C coil, thereby damaging the gun as far back as the trunnions. The coiled breech piece, lying between the C coil and the steel tube, remained intact, projecting some distance beyond the outer coil. The gun-carriage had recoiled with some force against the stops, and the violence of the explosion was shown by the torn pieces of the gun which strewed the floor of the cell. The cell itself was chiefly damaged on the right, and there had evidently been some heavy masses of iron hurled against the roof, splintering the thick beams which supported the superincumbent mass of earth. In front there had been a fall of sand-bags, and when these were removed further portions of the gun were found. A minute examination of the fragments of the exploded gun will now be made by General Gordon's committee, after which a report will be presented to the War Office.



A LEAP YEAR VALENTINE.

In dear old England's dearest, cosiest nook,
Embowered in beeches, stands the house where lived
Sir Harry Trevor and his daughter Kate—
Most jovial he of all right jovial squires,
And she the fairest maid where all are fair.
'Tis called The Castle, though a plain-built house;
So named from standing in a castle's bounds,
And ivied crumbling ruins hem it in.
The dwelling faces south, and from its lawn
Abruptly drops the ground with sheer descent
Far down to where a river winds its way,
Long lingering there, as loth to leave the spot.
On friendly terms with all the gentry round,
The Trevors held a family named Asshe
(Descended from an ancient stock, though poor)
In close-knit fellowship; the only son,
Called Philip, was Sir Harry's second self;
But now, quite suddenly, he had resolved,
No cause assigned, to start for Canada,
And his announced departure saddened all.



With this, she would have glided from the room,
But Philip snatched her to his heart, and held

Her there, her head down-dropped upon his breast,
While he devoured, not read, Kate's Valentine.

Upon the eve of sweet St. Valentine,
Phil, passing through the Castle hall, met Kate,
And drew her gently, unresistingly,
Within a room half library, half store—
Her special room, wherein she spent much time—
Its walls well lined with books, while strewed around
Were piles of blankets, wines, medicaments,
And odds and ends for her poor patients' needs;
For Katie was a Lady Bountiful,
As well as being somewhat of a Blue.
Phil blurted out—all his fine phrases lost—
"Dear Kate! you hold the issues of my life.
I love you, and have loved you many years.
'Twas my intent, you know, to leave this land;
Now, if I go or stay is at your will.
By one of Fortune's unexpected freaks
I am the heir, it seems, to vast estates.
Without this windfall I should not have told
My love; for proud, though poor, my heart approved
My dying father's caution, not to seek,
Nay to avoid, the winning of your love,
Nor pay Sir Harry's trust with perfidy.
A bitter task, believe me, I have had
To mask my love in seeming unconcern.
O Kate! dear Kate! do you return my love?"

The girl, with one hand to her heart pressed hard,
A letter from her bosom took, and said—
"Here is my answer; read it for yourself,
And judge. To-morrow is St. Valentine;
And when you stopped me so imperiously
(I never knew you, Phil, so masterful
To me before) I was about to place
The letter in the post-bag, so that he
To whom it is addressed (you see the name)
Might have to-morrow morn a valentine,
For Leap Year gives this license to us girls."

He seized the letter, looking full at Kate,
Upon whose cheeks swift blushes came and went
As sunshine comes and goes in April time,
And in whose eyes Love's augury he read.
Then Philip, eagerly—"What is this, Kate?
Say, can you, do you, love me in return?"
"Read!" was her answer, in a whisper given.
With this, she would have glided from the room,
But Philip snatched her to his heart, and held
Her there, her head down-dropped upon his breast,
While he devoured, not read, Kate's valentine.
The reading intermixed with kisses sweet,
Differing from angels' visits but in this,
They were not "brief" nor were they "far between."

"ST. VALENTINE'S EVE."

"DEAR PHILIP,—You are going to leave us, then—
None knowing why? Shall I presume to guess?
Inquiring what's the need for you to go?
Although I have some warranty to write
To you, this being Leap Year; and albeit
My modes of thought and training, as you know,
Lead me at times to quit the beaten track;
Yet do I feel somehow, my instincts say
It is unmaidenly to tell my love
Thus unsolicited, although to you,
Old and dear friends as we have been and are.
One fluttering hope amid a thousand fears
Sustains me and emboldens me to write.

"When that boy baronet came here to woo,
New thoughts were forced upon me, and I looked
With different eyes at you—a film seemed gone.
That time, a dreary time, you kept aloof;
And when by any chance we met, although
You brightened into smiles, there was restraint.
I missed you sore, for ever with you came
Fresh air and sunlight, and a sense of space,
That sometimes heightened, so it seemed, to heaven.
"Do you remember, Phil?—you surely must—
One sweet spring morn, when all the earth was gay,
We two were racing as for very life;
Snatches of bird-song only heard besides
The rhythmic thud of our two horses' feet,
When dear old Surefoot stumbled, throwing me?
My consciousness restored, I found myself
Within your arms, and the bright gleam of joy
Your eager soul shot through your questioning eyes
On seeing my return at length to life.
Shot into mine. But then, with mocking voice,
You laughingly made light of my mishap,
And so my opening heart close-shut again.

"You recollect that we kept open house
When father was elected for the shire.
Well, you and other gentlemen one day
Were lounging on the terrace after lunch,
And some puffed silently at their cigars
While others criticised the company.
You, moving restlessly, as is your wont,
Came ever and anon to one bright spot,
And there the westering sun smote you direct.
I, at the open window standing then,
Thought, felt, 'Dear Phil, he is the noblest there.'
Just then that thin-lipped lawyer, from whose tongue
Nought amiable, I think, could ever come,
Made some remark in my disparagement
(Poor fellow! my firm No had ruffled him),
When you, in that bright sunshine steeped again—
Or was it anger that so fired your face?—
Stopped suddenly, flung your cigar away,
And poured on him the tempest of your wrath.
Ah! then my heart passed into sunshine too.

"But how I felt assured, Phil, of your love
I blush to tell, as though in some mean way
I had obtained the secret. Yestermorn,
While sweetly nestling in your mother's arms,
I coaxed from her what 'tis that drives you hence.
(How could you, Philip, so misjudge us both?)
That day I saw you, in a moody state,
Amid those shrubs we call the wilderness;
Then came a sudden brightening o'er your face
As you from near your heart a locket took—
Mine! with my portrait! which you begged of me!—
And pressed it often to your eager lips.
With cheeks—I felt they were so—all aflame,
And in a whirl of bliss, I sought my room
To hush the tumult of my heart, which sang
'He loves me! loves me! Yes! And I—and I'—

Thus far had Philip glanced, when with a clash
The church bells near at hand rang jubilant,
Fair omen of the quickly-coming time
When from that belfry burst a wedding-peal.

JOHN LATRY.

THE AFGHAN WAR.

No military operations or political transactions in Afghanistan on the part of the British authorities have been reported since our last; but it is stated that the defensive works completed by General Sir F. Roberts at Cabul have had a reassuring effect, and that the people who had fled from that city have begun to return, availing themselves of the amnesty which he lately proclaimed. On the other hand, we hear that the Mohnunds have burned down the houses of those who have gone to Lalpura to do homage to the new Khan, and are endeavouring by threats to prevent others from going. The Sangu Khel Shinwarris are expected to become troublesome. At Ghuzni the priest, Mooshk-i-Alim, has called upon the tribes to resume hostilities against the British, and the Kohistanis and the Ghilzais have agreed to do so. A severe shock of earthquake was felt last week in the Kuram Valley. The remainder of the fine imposed on the Zaimukhts and Alisherzais, for the murder of Lieutenant Kinloch, has been paid, and their hostages at Thull have been released.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

The vast drawing-rooms of the Elysée were on the 5th inst. crowded with all the *élite* of the Republican party. This was the first ball since M. Grévy's accession.

Dr. Broca, a Republican, was elected a life member of the Senate on the 5th inst. despite the efforts of M. Jules Simon, M. de Broglie, M. Buffet, and M. Chesnelong. The Chamber of Deputies began on Saturday last the discussion of the bill authorising various grants on account of the Budget of 1880. The debate on the credit of 800,000f. required by the Minister of Marine for colonial defences was postponed, and the Minister (Admiral Jauréguiberry), it is stated, at first intended to resign, but his friends dissuaded him from taking that step, and pointed out that M. Brisson, the President of the Budget Committee, had expressly declared that the adoption or rejection of the grant for colonial defences involved no question of confidence in the Minister. M. Perier read the report of the committee upon the proposal for a general amnesty, which advocates the rejection, pure and simple, of the proposal. The debate on the subject was fixed for Thursday, to which day the Chamber adjourned.

M. Paul de Cassagnac has addressed the following letter to M. Gambetta in acknowledgment of the tact and delicacy with which the latter announced his father's death to the Chamber:—"Monsieur le Président,—Political struggles has made us adversaries whom everything separates; but I should consider myself wanting in the loyalty which has guided my whole life if, while expressing to you my personal gratitude, I do not thank you publicly in the name of my family for the complete justice you rendered to the well-beloved head it has just lost. Be kind enough to accept, Monsieur le Président, the expression of my most distinguished sentiments."

An official denial is given to the statement made in Paris on Saturday that Admiral Jauréguiberry, the Minister of Marine, had tendered his resignation on account of the rejection of his proposal that a grant of 800,000f. should be voted for the defence of the colonies.

The Comte de St. Vallier has consented to continue in his post of Ambassador at Berlin; and it is stated that there is now not the slightest disagreement between the Ambassador and the present Cabinet.

The Paris correspondent of the *Standard* telegraphs the substance of an article which has appeared in the *Armée Française* comparing the relative strength of the French and German armies. The French military journal says that while the infantry battalions of France outnumber those of Germany, the number of men in the latter army greatly exceeds that in the former; and when the fresh battalions constituted by the new bill shall have been formed, the numerical superiority of the German infantry will be 27,000 men.

M. Crémieux, formerly Minister of the Provisional Government of 1848, and of the Government of National Defence of 1870, died at Paris on Tuesday in his eighty-fourth year, having survived his wife only a few days. He commenced his career at the bar in 1817, and in 1842 obtained a seat in the Chamber. At the coup d'état he was arrested and thrown into prison, and on his release he withdrew from political life and returned to his practice at the bar. M. Crémieux was a Jew, and worked zealously in the cause of his co-religionists. By his decease a vacancy is caused among the life senators.

The ice on the Loire is breaking up, without as yet having done any serious damage. The works for protecting property in Saumur from the ice have been completed.

SPAIN.

The trial of Otero, at Madrid, for the attempted murder of the King, concluded on Monday before the Court of First Instance. He was sentenced to death, the Judge remarking that there were no extenuating circumstances in his crime.

ITALY.

Before driving in the Via Nazionale on the 8th inst. Queen Margherita took the Prince of Naples to a children's fancy-dress ball at the Duchess Sforza Cesarini's, and remained until after the first quadrille and the first polka were danced.

The official trial of the Duilio, fully armed, and carrying her complete cargo of ammunition and coal, was made at Spezia on the 6th inst. The engines are reported to have worked well. The speed made was fifteen knots an hour, and the ship obeyed the helm easily.

Mount Vesuvius presented a magnificent spectacle on the night of the 6th inst. New streams of lava were flowing north-west, the crater forming a cone of brilliant red light.

BELGIUM.

The second Court ball at Brussels was given on the 5th inst., and was brilliantly attended. Dancing began at nine o'clock, immediately after the entrance of the King and Queen, with the Count and Countess de Flandre, the members of the diplomatic body, the President of the Chamber, and the Ministers of State. The Queen, who was slightly indisposed, retired immediately after supper.

GERMANY.

The Emperor William, it is announced at Berlin, has definitely decided upon opening the Reichstag in person.

The Budget of the German Empire for the current year was submitted to the Federal Council yesterday week. The revenue and expenditure are fixed at 544,888,181 marks. The permanent expenditure amounts to 467,409,487 marks, and the temporary expenditure to 77,478,697.

In the course of the discussion of the Public Worship Estimates in the sitting of the Lower House of the Prussian Diet on the 5th inst. the Minister of Public Worship, replying to strictures made by Herr von Windthorst, declared that a compromise with the Catholics could only be effected on the basis of the existing Prussian legislation, and that while it gave due consideration to the interests and needs of the Church, it must also have as its inflexible object the

interests and rights of the Monarchy. On Saturday the debate was resumed. In reply to complaints of the harsh application of the May laws in the province of Posen, Herr von Puttkammer said the Government had not intended to render the cure of souls in vacant parishes a complete impossibility. They had from the first acted upon the idea that the exercise of certain religious offices by the clergymen of neighbouring parishes should not be punishable by law, but the legal authorities did not take this view of the matter in all cases, so that a remedy for the present inconvenience certainly appeared to be required. The Government was not, however, at present in a position to bring forward a Bill declaratory of the interpretation to be placed on the law. In reply to a remark of Herr Klotz, Herr von Puttkammer said the Government intended to carry out the ecclesiastical laws so long as they remained on the statute book. With regard to the item of the budget making provision for the Old Catholic bishop, which was objected to, the Minister said that this arrangement was part of the law of the land.

The Berlin correspondent of the *Morning Post* states that the new Army Bill provides for an increase of the number of officers on the active service list by 877. It does not at present appear quite certain if these officers can be got. There are already 1177 vacancies in the lower grades.

Lord and Lady Odo Russell gave a ball at the British Embassy at Berlin last Saturday night. The Emperor and Empress were present, and remained some time.

In the final sentence of the German Court which inquired into the loss of the Grosser Kurfürst the conduct of Admiral Batsch is blamed, but he is excused on account of his zeal for the efficiency of his crews. He has been temporarily removed from active service, and is now employed at the Admiralty in Berlin.

Field Marshal von Manteuffel, the new Governor-General of Alsace and Lorraine, is said to have gone further in his plans for introducing autonomous government into the provinces under his rule than the authorities at Berlin are quite prepared to sanction, and the difference of opinion is reported to have produced a misunderstanding between himself and the Secretary of State, Herr Herzog.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

The Austrian Delegation adopted yesterday week, without amendment, the ordinary and extraordinary war and naval Budgets. The Minister of War, referring to the rumoured intention of the Government to fortify Vienna, said that the question of the defences of the whole monarchy had been disposed of two years ago, and since that time no fresh steps had been taken in the matter. On Monday the Delegation voted the credits required for defraying the expenses of the occupation of Bosnia and the relief of the Bosnian refugees. The supplementary credits for the Austro-Hungarian navy were also passed.

RUSSIA.

This year the number of men who are to enter the Russian navy is fixed at 1700. The sect of Mennonites, who have hitherto been free from military service, will this year for the first time furnish a contingent.

In St. Petersburg, the death is reported of the Russian writer Tchernichersky, who was known as the translator of Mill's "Political Economy" and as the author of a novel embodying Nihilist ideas. He was sentenced in 1864 to twelve years in the mines, and afterwards to a further term of three years. Finally, he was sent to a small town in Eastern Siberia.

TURKEY.

The Sultan has directed his second son and the second son of his predecessor to enter the ranks of a regiment of Body Guards as privates. This event is without example in Turkey.

At a meeting of the Diplomatic Body at the British Embassy, Constantinople, Sir Henry Layard pointed out the necessity of ensuring the payment of the proper salvage dues to the English life-boat station on the Black Sea.

EGYPT.

From Cairo, under date Feb. 10, it is announced that the arrears of the Egyptian Tribute to the Porte have been paid. The Great Powers have resumed negotiations for the appointment of an International Committee of Liquidation to effect, by means of mutual concessions, a final settlement of the Egyptian financial situation, binding upon all parties.

AMERICA.

The Senate on Tuesday passed the bill for the representation of the United States at the Berlin Fishery Exhibition.

It is announced on the authority of a personal friend of General Grant that, should the National Republican Convention nominate the General for the Presidency, he will accept the candidature.

The Virginia Debt Readjustors have presented a bill in the State Legislature for reducing the State Debt from 32 to 19 $\frac{3}{4}$ million dollars, and fixing the interest on the reduced amount at 30 per cent per annum.

The Pennsylvania Republican Convention has taken several votes showing a majority in favour of the candidature of General Grant for the Presidency. Last week the Convention adopted, by 133 to 113, a resolution instructing the delegates who are to represent Pennsylvania at the Chicago Convention to vote for General Grant.

The Iowa House of Representatives have adopted a resolution in favour of a constitutional amendment making women eligible for the Legislature.

Liberal collections for the relief of the distress in Ireland were made last Sunday in many of the Catholic churches throughout the country. Several Irish societies in the States have resolved to follow the example of the friendly society of the Sons of St. Patrick in dispensing with the usual parade on St. Patrick's Day, and will devote considerable sums to the relief of Irish distress. The *New York Herald* (the American correspondent of the *Times*) receives warm commendations throughout the country for opening an Irish relief fund with its princely donation. The fund is receiving contributions at the rate of 500 dols. hourly, over 3500 contributions being already announced. Subscriptions in aid of the Irish Relief Fund have been opened by newspapers in many cities of the United States. The sums thus collected will be remitted to Ireland in the majority of cases through the intermediary of the *New York Herald*. Mr. Parnell and Mr. Dillon have been to Richmond (Virginia), where their presence excited, we are told, comparatively little interest. Mr. Parnell was accorded the privileges of the floor of both Houses of the Virginia Legislature, and addressed a small audience yesterday week, repeating his former denunciations of the British Government and the Dublin Mansion House and Duchess of Marlborough's Relief Funds, both of which are, notwithstanding, being largely supplemented from the States and Canada. A resolution was introduced in the House of Representatives on Monday authorising Mr. Thompson, the Secretary of the Navy, to appoint a United States war-vessel to convey the contributions raised in America to Ireland.

CANADA.

The Governor-General and Princess Louise (Marchioness of Lorne) arrived at Ottawa on the 6th inst. under a Royal

salute, and were received at the railway station by the members of the Cabinet and the Mayor. A military parade was held in honour of the occasion.

The Hon. E. B. Chandler, the Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick, died suddenly on the 6th inst.

SOUTH AFRICA.

A telegram from the Cape states that the Natal Legislative Council has adopted a resolution in favour of responsible Government. The Council has refused to grant a sum of £1000 to defray the expenses of the Boundary Commission. A despatch dated Jan. 20, received by way of Madeira, says that the Cape Government, acceding to the request of Letsea, the Basuto chief, has granted a delay for the surrender of arms by the Basutos, pending the result of the petition which the chief has addressed to the Cape Parliament.

The *Standard* says that the Government of the Transvaal will be administered by Colonel Lanigan, pending the arrival of Sir Garnet Wolseley in England, when the whole question of the future Government of our South African possessions will be discussed at the Colonial Office.

AUSTRALIA.

By telegram from Melbourne, dated Feb. 9, we learn that Parliament has been dissolved, and that the elections have been fixed for the 28th inst. Sir Charles Gavan Duffy, the Speaker of the Victorian Legislative Assembly, starts for England by the mail leaving on Feb. 20.

Official returns show that the revenue of Queensland from customs duties and other sources is increasing and that trade is improving. There has been a very fine season throughout the colony. The exportation of sugar since July last has reached 9200 tons.

ROYAL INSTITUTION LECTURES.

THE CONTRACTION OF MUSCLES.

Professor E. A. Schäfer, F.R.S., in his fourth lecture, given on Tuesday week, the 3rd inst., resumed the consideration of the contraction of muscles, described as passing along like a wave. The way in which Professor Aeby ascertained the rate of this movement was explained. Two levers resting on a muscle, with a certain interval between, wrote on a revolving cylinder, the time being measured by the vibrations of a tuning-fork. He was thus enabled to observe the diminution and length of the wave, the result obtained being one metre per second. Bernstein, by a different method, calculating from the rate of the propagation of the stimulus, gave 3 to 4.5 metres per second; while Romanes found the rate of the contractile wave in Aurelia to be 18 inches per second. Professor Schäfer then explained that the contractile wave is preceded by a stimulus wave, which is assumed to travel just as fast as the contractile wave, and is also accompanied by a wave of electric variation. Romanes has shown that in Medusa the stimulus wave varies very considerably with the strength of the stimulus. This variation has not yet been determined for the contractile wave. Professor Schäfer showed how the determination of the exact time of the passage of a contractile wave was obtained by causing one of the straw levers in rising to send a galvanic current through an electro-magnet, and the second lever, by its rise, to interrupt the current and remagnetise the electro-magnet. These two moments were marked on a moving surface by a small pen moved by the electro-magnet. In regard to temperature, it was stated that cold retarded and warmth accelerated the rate of wave-motion, and the effect of poisons was alluded to. In the latter part of the lecture the modes of obtaining the muscle-curve (the inscription or autograph of a single contraction) were illustrated, including the drum-myograph of Helmholtz, the spring-myograph of Du Bois-Reymond, and the pendulum-myograph of Fick. Finally, in an analysis of this curve, the Professor noticed the latent excitation period, the rise to a maximum, and the fall to ascissa.

CHEMICAL PROGRESS.

Professor Dewar, F.R.S., in his second lecture on Recent Chemical Progress, given on Thursday week, the 5th inst., resumed his experimental illustrations of the study of bodies submitted to high temperatures. Beginning with decompositions effected by an intermittent electric current, he showed that the size of the poles or electrodes regulates the effects. Thus, while using at the same time a large and a small electrode, decomposition took place at the small and not at the large one. When aluminium wire was employed as one of the electrodes, an oxide coating of the metal was formed, which resisted the passage of the current, and made the aluminium become luminous beneath the surface of the water; decomposition and recombination rendering the effect continuous. When the formation of the oxide was prevented by using an alkaline solution no luminosity was produced. The Professor then explained and illustrated some of the laws discovered by Professor Andrews of Belfast, which regulate the amount of heat evolved in the formation of salts in solutions. The allotropic states of sulphur were produced by the radiant energy of the heat and light of the electric arc, equal to a three-horse power. Thin non-transparent layers of ordinary sulphur, a yellow confused crystalline mass, were by the radiant energy of the electric light converted into an amber-coloured transparent liquid, which became a deeper and deeper red, and eventually boiled at 430 degrees centigrade, giving forth a brilliant red vapour—a magnificent spectacle, well shown on the screen. It was stated that the heated unstable liquid, by sudden cooling, is, as it were, frozen, and can be kept in the liquid state for some time. Adverting to the hypothesis of atomic motion, Professor Dewar commented on Newton's instinctive perception of this motion, and its relation to light, expressed in the Queries appended to his "Optics," and referred to by Black; and the different rates of vibration, whereby the various coloured rays of continuous and other kinds of spectra are produced, were illustrated by the oscillations of ivory balls, suspended by spiral springs of different lengths, and also by the movements of a gyroscope inclosed in a hollow copper ball.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SPECTRA OF STARS.

Mr. William Huggins, D.C.L., F.R.S., at the evening meeting on Friday, the 6th inst., gave an account of some of the results of his application of spectrum analysis to the light of heavenly bodies, in continuation of the investigations first begun by Dr. W. Allen Miller and himself in 1863 and in 1864, by means of which definite information has been obtained as to the constitution of stars, planets, and nebulae. Referring to a large picture of the solar spectrum, he stated, that beyond both ends of it, there are rays, invisible to our eyes, but which can be rendered visible by proper arrangements. Thus the ultra-violet rays he made visible by sending the electric light through a solution of sulphate of quinine—a phenomenon termed fluorescence. To obtain the spectrum of the feeble light of a star and photograph it was exceedingly difficult, and Dr. Huggins suspended his researches till 1875, when he resumed them with new special apparatus. These he explained, and he showed how the image of a star can be brought exactly upon the slit of the

spectroscope and retained there during the whole time of exposure, sometimes for more than an hour, by a system of continuous supervision and instant control by hand when necessary. Dry gelatine plates were adopted for photographing, and the photographs were examined and the lines measured by a micrometer attached to a low-power microscope. Use was made of Cornu's map of the ultra-violet part of the spectrum and Mascart's determination of the wave-lengths of cadmium. A large diagram was exhibited, giving the spectra of Sirius, Arcturus, and other stars, and several of these spectra were shown on the screen by the electric light, comments being made on their characteristic lines, indicating the presence of hydrogen and various metallic vapours in the light of the star. Six photographic spectra presented a typical spectrum of twelve strong lines. These were white stars; but those of blue and red stars were also considered. Photographs of the spectra of Jupiter, Venus, and Mars showed no sensible planetary modification of the violet and ultra-violet parts of the spectrum. Numerous spectra of small areas of the surface of the Moon were taken under different conditions of illumination and during eclipses. The results were wholly negative as to any absorptive action of a lunar atmosphere. Dr. Huggins stated that he is preparing to obtain by photography any lines which may exist in the violet and ultra-violet spectra of the gaseous nebula, and he suggested the application of his method to the investigation of the differences in the photographic region of variable stars, the difference of the relative motions of two stars in the line of sight, the sun's rotation from photographic spectra of opposite limbs, and the spectra of different parts of a sun spot. In the hope of throwing light on many physical questions he has taken for comparison a number of terrestrial spectra, especially of hydrogen and calcium, under different physical conditions. The discourse was elucidated by experiments.

GEORGE FREDERICK HANDEL.

Professor Ernst Pauer gave the first of three lectures on Handel, Bach, and Haydn, on Saturday last, the 7th inst. In a brief biographical sketch he referred to Handel's birth, at Halle, in Saxony, Feb. 23, 1685; his father being barber-surgeon to the Elector Duke Augustus; his mother, Dorothea Faust, daughter of a Lutheran clergyman. To the former he was said to owe his energy and intelligence; to the latter, his earnest dignity and Christian devotion. His musical genius was detected at an early age, and by the Duke's persuasions he combined the study of the law with music. In 1702 he was appointed organist of Halle University. At Hamburg he became the friend of Johann Mattheson; and, like him, declined the office of organist at Lübeck, subject to the condition of marrying the magistrate's daughter. At Hamburg he wrote a "Passion-Music" and an opera, "Almira." In 1707 he went to Italy, where he produced many good works, and met with Scarlatti and Corelli, from whom he derived much benefit. In 1710 he became kapell-meister at Hanover, and in that year first visited London, where he settled in 1712, charmed by his great success. He thereby irritated the Elector, who, becoming King as George I., did not forgive him till after hearing his "water music," composed as a peace offering in 1717. In 1718 Handel became chapel master to the Duke of Chandos, for whom he composed his first oratorio, "Esther," "Acis and Galatea," many anthems, and other pieces. After producing many operas, he became director of an academy, from which, after much opposition and loss, he retired, and went to Aix-la-Chapelle. On his return to England he gave up his life to the composition of his immortal oratorios, the noblest of which, "The Messiah," he devoted to charitable purposes. While writing "Jephthah" he became blind, but continued composing and giving concerts till his death, April 14, 1759. After commenting on Handel's energetic disposition and fertility of composition, shown in the immense amount of his work and its varied character, Professor Pauer defined three kinds of music, the epic or heroic, the lyric, and the dramatic, and assigned to Handel's productions that of the epos in poetry. His chief characteristic is grandeur; and even in his solos he never gives way to sickly sentimentality. His pathos is dignified, and his choruses are imbued with religious enthusiasm. In a brief comparison between Handel and his countryman and contemporary, J. Sebastian Bach, Professor Pauer noticed the different methods they adopted to obtain the same result. Bach, moreover, was almost wholly devoted to the Church, while Handel's genius embraced history and the drama as well as religion, being influenced by Germany, Italy, and England. Bach led a quiet, secluded life; while Handel lived in the world, yet rejecting empty honours. His mind was remarkably attuned to the English; and in this country his popularity never has been and doubtless never will be rivalled. The illustrations on the pianoforte included a suite in E major, a concerto in G minor, and a minut and gavotte.

The Rev. H. R. Haweis, M.A., will give a discourse on Old Violins, at the Friday evening meeting, Feb. 20. On Saturday, the 21st, Professor Pauer will lecture on Joseph Haydn, with musical illustrations.

At a meeting of the Liverpool Town Council on Monday, it was agreed by a large majority to forward petitions to both Houses of Parliament in favour of the closing of public-houses on Sundays.

Sir Ivor B. Guest, Bart., of Canford Manor, Wimborne, has again come to the relief of his agricultural tenants by a remission of rent at the rate of 22½ per cent on his Welsh estates; and in Dorsetshire, where from local causes the distress hardly presses with equal severity, 17½ has been returned.

"Thom's Irish Almanac, and Official Directory of the United Kingdom," the thirty-seventh yearly edition of which has been published by Messrs. Alexander Thom and Co., of Dublin, is a work of standard repute for accuracy and completeness. It comprises, in the first part, which fills about one third of the volume, all the ordinary lists of the Peerage, Baronetage, Knights, members of Parliament, Civil Service, Foreign and Colonial Services, Army and Navy, and other departments belonging to Great Britain and Ireland as one realm. The remaining two thirds of the volume, which altogether contains 1800 pages, are devoted to Ireland alone; consisting, first, of a valuable compilation of Irish statistics, which will be especially useful in the study and discussion of questions now before the Legislature, next, the official persons in the service of public departments, and, subsequently, those of the medical, legal, and ecclesiastical professions; the banks and post-offices; a county and borough directory for all Ireland, with magistrates, mayors, town councillors or town commissioners, boards of guardians, registrars, revenue officers, and constabulary; further, a perfect directory of streets and names for the city and county of Dublin, with an alphabetical list of nobility and gentry, merchants and tradesmen. We have no one book of reference for England to be compared with this for the variety and extent of its relative information, which is absolutely complete for Ireland in all points of nomenclature and topographical enumeration.

NATIONAL SPORTS.

During the present winter sportsmen have enjoyed one of the longest holidays on record, for the persistent frost has put an effectual stop to all outdoor amusements, except curling and skating. Both are excellent in their way, still the votaries of the "roaring" game are very few and far between, and the records of skating contests, chronicling the unbroken successes of the invincible "Fish" Smart, have become decidedly monotonous. However, at last, a fair start has been made at steeplechasing and coursing, and we are scarcely likely to suffer from another interruption in the round of sport until December next. The entries for the various spring handicaps have been fairly up to the average, and the acceptances are very good, still there has not been much betting as yet on any of them, and the chief topic of conversation has been the unfortunate disqualifications of Beaudesert and Prestopans by the lamented death of the Marquis of Anglesey. The former still remains in the Derby and Leger, for which he was nominated by his late trainer; but the young Prince Charlie has forfeited all his engagements. Mr. Gretton is certainly one of the most luckless of purchasers. For years past price has been no object to him when he has fancied a yearling, yet we cannot recall a single long-priced youngster that has won a good race for him; and now that he has given £6000 for one of the gamest and stoutest two-year-olds of last season, the loss of all the colt's valuable engagements has made him comparatively worthless. Certainly, the present law with regard to nominations presses very hardly in certain instances, and yet we scarcely see how it could be much improved. The death of a nominator would never make any difficulty with regard to the forfeits of a good horse, but who would feel inclined to meet those incurred by a worthless one, or by one who had died? The only course that suggests itself to us is the legal transfer of all a horse's liabilities to its purchaser; and perhaps something may be done in this way before the end of another season.

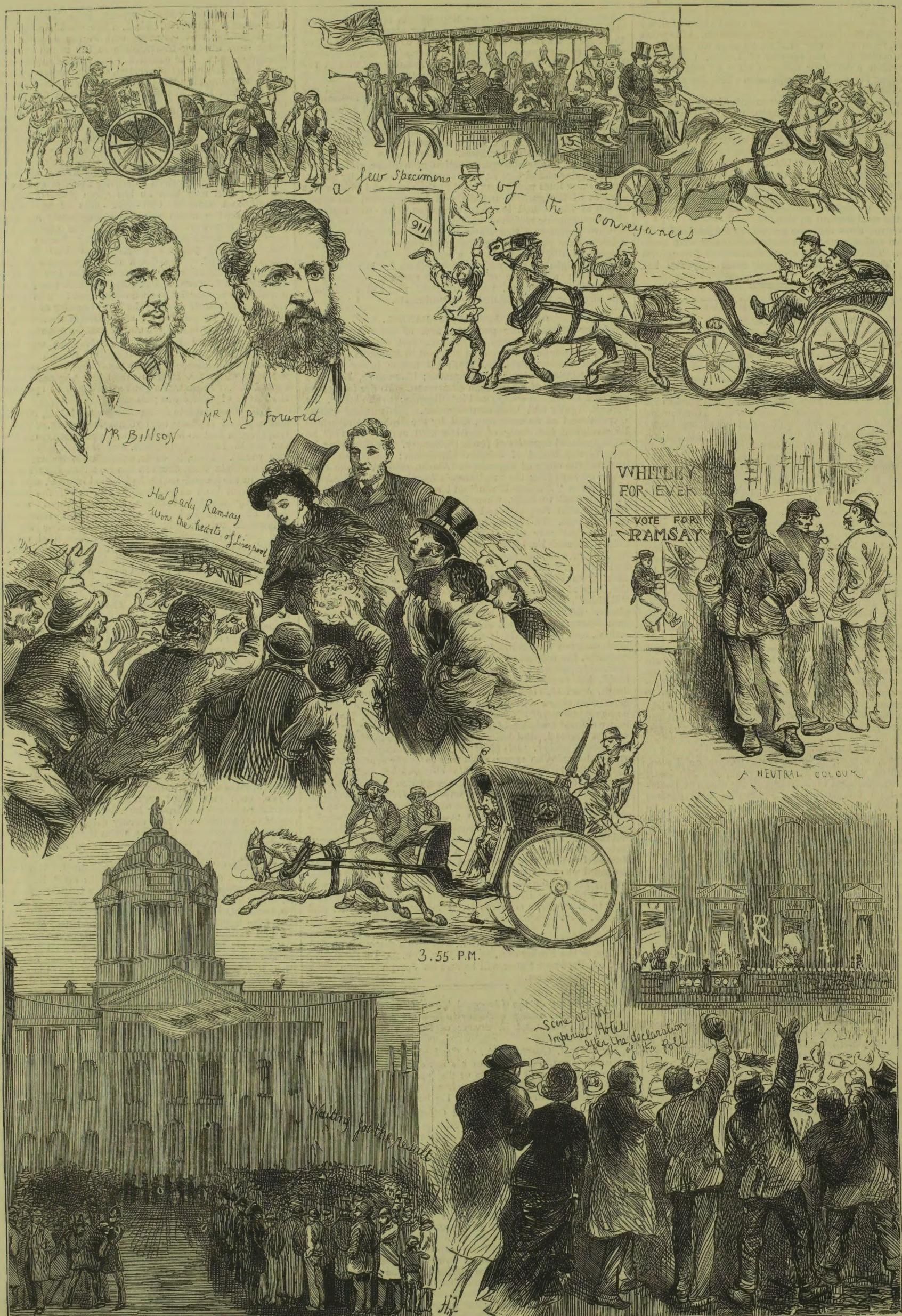
The postponed Kempton Park Meeting was begun on Tuesday, and proved very successful, though there was no race of special interest. Horses must have been generally very short of work, yet backers made few mistakes, and had a capital day. There was a good attendance of spectators, and the Prince of Wales was present.

After innumerable disappointments of late, coursing men had a grand meeting at Lytham last week. The Earl of Haddington had no less than five representatives in the North and South Lancashire Stakes, and they all got through the first round. Then, however, misfortunes began, for Helenus and Herminia went down in the first ties, Hawthorn and Hazard both succumbed in the third, the stake being eventually divided between Messrs. Cowan and Webb, each of whom had two representatives standing. Old Skipworth was within an ace of winning the Lytham Cup for the fourth time, but, in the final course with Hagar, he blundered into a drain, and left her to finish alone, after leading her by a good four lengths to the hare. Fur was not plentiful on the first day, but on the Thursday and Friday the coursing was splendid. Luff slipped extremely well, from start to finish, and, as usual, Mr. Hedley's decisions gave the greatest satisfaction. The latter gentleman has been appointed to judge the Waterloo Cup for the seventh year in succession. The betting on this great event has undergone little change during the past few days. Lord Haddington is still at the head of affairs, though he is pressed very closely by Mr. Wilkins, who will be represented by Mr. Daw's Decorator, a dog that is said to have improved greatly since he ran so well at Newmarket last autumn.

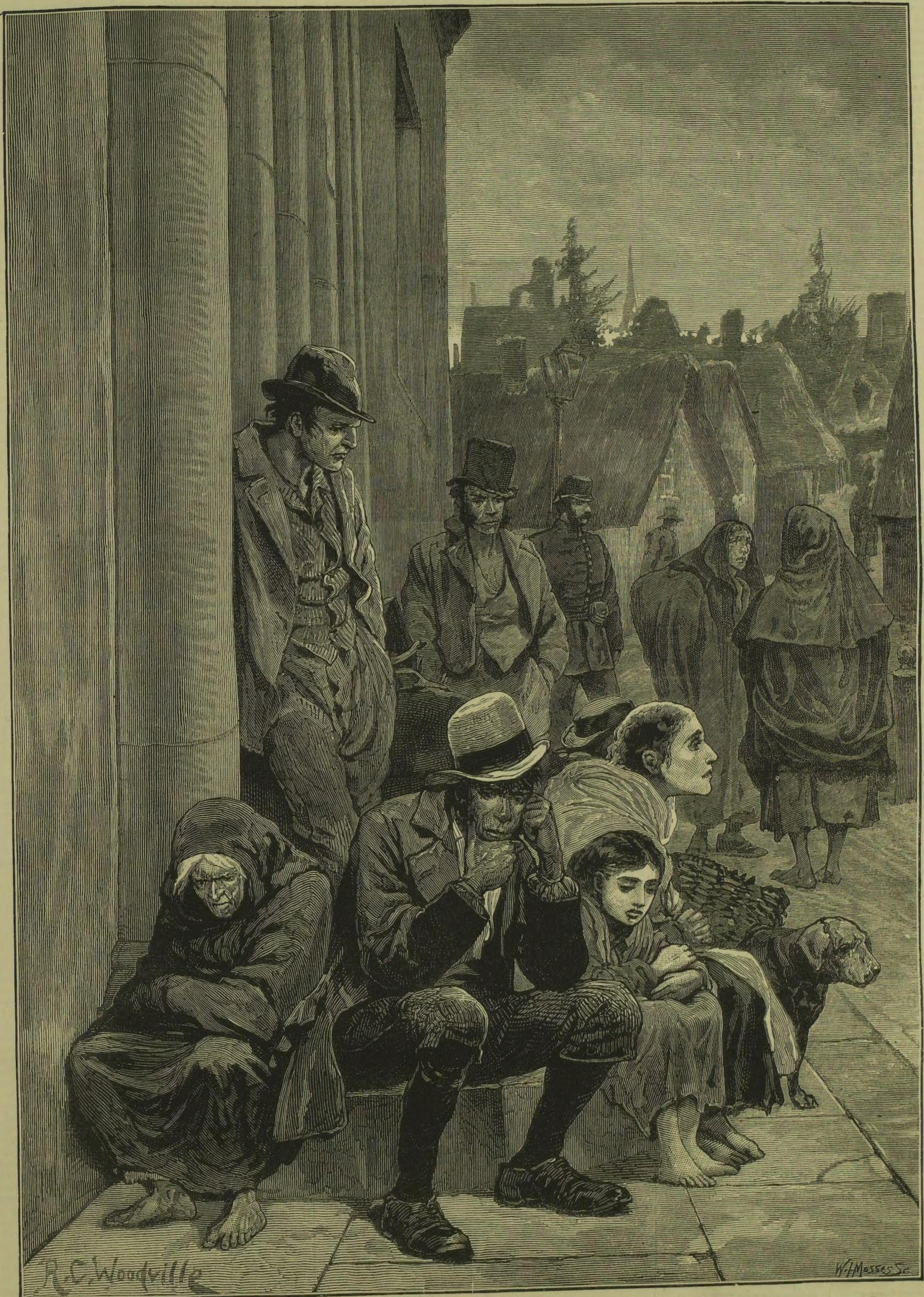
English scullers are beginning to recover from the crushing blows administered to them by Hanlan last season, and to think of taking energetic steps to recover our lost supremacy in aquatic matters. There was at first a talk of sending William Elliott to America; but, after Boyd had defeated Higgins so easily, it began to be thought that we might find a better representative. This naturally led to a match being made between the two north countrymen, and, in spite of serious interruptions to their training from the amount of ice on the Tyne, both men were very fit when they sculled to the starting-place on Monday last. Opinions as to their respective chances were very evenly divided in Newcastle until within a few hours of the race, when there was a general rush to support Boyd. At one time as much as 7 to 4 was laid upon him, but before the start a slight reaction took place, and not more than 11 to 8 could be obtained. Boyd was very eager to get away, and, after one false start, began so well that he at once secured a lead of half a length. Both struck at about forty per minute, and Elliott, spurring hard, soon recovered his lost ground, and showed with a slight lead. At this time Boyd's style was infinitely the better of the two, as he had settled down to a very long drag, which put great pace on his boat, and yet did not seem to tax his powers to the utmost; while Elliott appeared rather flurried, and was burying the blades of his sculls far too deeply in the water at each stroke. The effect of this disparity of style was soon apparent, for, without any effort, Boyd closed up the slight gap between the boats, and, gliding away, soon put a little daylight between the stern of his cutter and the bow of Elliott's craft. For some little distance further the struggle was a good one, but when Boyd shot under Redheugh Bridge, in 2 min. 48 sec. from the start, with a lead of two lengths, it was apparent that the race was over. Both men had now dropped to 32, but Boyd's style was still far better than that of his opponent, and he widened the gap between them at his leisure, eventually winning by four lengths in 22 min. 47 sec. This race has effectually settled the question as to supremacy among English scullers, and as Boyd, who used a 26-in. slide on this occasion, seems to have adapted himself to the American style, he may be capable of far better things. To-day (Saturday) he is to give John Hawdon, of Delaval, four lengths' start in a race from the Scotswood Suspension Bridge to the Redheugh Bridge, for £100 a side, and he has already challenged Hanlan to scull for the Championship of England and the challenge cup presented by the proprietors of the *Sportsman*, which is at present held by the Canadian.

At a meeting of the Royal Scottish Academy, on Tuesday, Mr. Norman Macbeth and Mr. Otto Theodore Leyde, Associates, were elected Academicians, in room of the late Mr. Sam. Brough and the late Mr. James Cassie.

During the preparations for an afternoon performance in the Theatre Royal, Dublin, on Monday, the upholstery of one of the boxes took fire, and the flames spread with such rapidity that the building was soon completely destroyed. It is stated that some persons have been burned to death, and thirteen workmen and firemen have sustained serious injuries. From a personal narrative as to the outbreak and progress of the fire, given by one of the actresses who was standing on the stage when the curtains in the Viceregal box caught fire, there can be no doubt that Mr. Egerton, the acting manager, has lost his life.



SKETCHES AT THE LIVERPOOL ELECTION.—SEE PAGE 147.



THE STATE OF IRELAND: SCENE OUTSIDE THE COURTHOUSE, GALWAY.—SEE PAGE 154.
FROM A SKETCH BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST.

W. H. MACKENZIE

TALK OF THE WEEK.

They are many stories told of incidents in the recent fog, some amusing and some pathetic enough. It is not pleasant to read of the poor cabmen who literally died in fulfilling their duties to the public, or of maimed horses blundering on to the pavement, or of vehicles being wrecked on the steps of a church; but it is an instance of the kindly providence of fate when a nervous lady and her daughter, who had secured a cab from the Haymarket Theatre to Belgravia at the modest cost of a sovereign, were overturned at the very entrance to an hotel, where they secured a bed and a welcome. But my anecdote has a more touching signification, and I think a poem might be made out of it without much difficulty. In the thickest hours of the fog a puzzled gentleman was feebly standing by the Albert Hall and asking to be directed to some obscure road in South Kensington. For a moment no one answered, but at last an old man emerged from the mist and offered to act as a guide. "But how can you be certain of the way, my old friend?" asked the gentleman. There was no responsive look, but there was a gentle answer, "I am blind." So it is not always true that the blind lead the blind with disastrous consequences to both.

The old Theatre Royal, Dublin, has been burned to the ground, and the classic boards on which so many celebrated actors have appeared are numbered amongst the theatres of the past of that celebrated city, such as the Smock-alley Theatre, the Rainsford-street Theatre, the Aungier-street Theatre, and, later on, those in Fishworth-street, Crow-street, and Capel-street. The oldest theatre in Dublin was that at Smock-alley, which was managed at one time by Sheridan, and was the scene of the celebrated riot, in 1754, that secured Sheridan's banishment from Ireland. This celebrated playhouse was built in Orange-street, Dublin, soon after the Restoration, and it took its name of "Smock-alley" from Mother Bungy of infamous memory, and was in her time a sink of debauchery. A man being found murdered there, the miserable houses which then occupied that spot were pulled down and handsome ones were afterwards built in their place; yet, although the place was thus purged of its infamy, it retained its old name. In 1671 some part of the theatre fell down, when two persons were killed and several severely wounded. The year 1821 saw the building of two important new theatres—the Haymarket in London and the Theatre Royal, Dublin. This last was managed by Mr. Harris for many years, and its oldest living servant is Mr. M. Levey, the popular musical conductor, father of Mr. W. C. Levey, the composer.

It is very clear to any unprejudiced person that there was a great need of a "Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals" in the older times, when Shrove Tuesday was kept up with all its religious solemnity and popular barbarity. The good folk were no doubt shriven, and listened attentively to the warning notes of the "pancake bell," and abjured flesh meat, and made ample preparations for the oncoming Lenten discipline; but it seems a strange preparation for penance to fight cocks, to whip hens that refused to lay eggs, and to perform endless barbarities on the peaceful inhabitants of the poultry-yard. The cocks and hens on an old-fashioned Shrove Tuesday seldom got much chance, except down in Huntingdonshire, when the sport of "cock-running" was pursued. This amiable device consisted in clipping a cock's wings and sending him off with a pursuer behind him in the shape of a yokel with his hands tightly secured behind his back. The object of the pursuer was to catch the bird by the neck with his teeth and land him safely in some appointed goal, but this was not done without endangering the eyes and face of the brute with a good wholesome pecking. It is curious how these cruel sports, in which cocks were always the victims, have descended, for even in modern times boys must have recalled the sport of shying at leaden birds and animals with a dull piece of wood called a "dump" or a pewter "nicker." For boyish purposes the object and the missiles were made out of all the alehouse pots and pewter plates that could be pressed into the service. When the Shrovetide season ended it was lawful to "smug," or steal, the properties of the discarded game; for all sports in street or school have their accustomed and inexplicable seasons, varying from tipcat to hopscotch. The change of game and the defined authority for stealing discarded toys is illustrated by the old street jingle,

Tops are in, spin 'em again;
Dumps are out, smugging about.

Dr. William Howard Russell has returned from his unsatisfactory journey to the Cape, and suddenly finds himself involved in a paper war, having to fight all the authorities at the Horse Guards with one hand and with the other to parry the thrusts of Sir Garnet Wolseley, the chief he has served so loyally and well. It seems strange to start off from London, attached to the staff of an accomplished officer, receiving with him the cheers of old friends and associates assembled to wish you "God speed," and to return home and find yourself officially accused of uttering "gross exaggerations" and "transparent untruths." But Dr. Russell has stuck to his guns like a man, as he did in the Crimean days; and, having, from a strong sense of duty, commented upon the gross insubordination and excesses of our raw and ill-disciplined army, he is evidently prepared to give chapter and verse for all that he has written; and, what is better, is prepared to make the Horse Guards officials, Sir Garnet Wolseley's staff, and all the military despatch-writers in the service, swallow the insult they have gratuitously offered to the *doyen* of newspaper correspondents and one who has proved himself to be by his recent description of the captured stronghold unequalled as a master of graphic description. Next to this account of the English battle, the next best thing that Dr. Russell has done recently is the letter manfully, epigrammatically, and forcibly denouncing his columnists. The answer to that which is unanswered has yet to come, but the Horse Guards staff mistook their man when they thought that the chronicler of the Crimea and the tried friend of the Army could be classed with impunity as one of the newspaper fellows for whose guidance general officers and bumptious aide-de-camps frame silly regulations. It will be a bad day for the public when the conscientious duty of the chronicler is taken away from the journalist and given to the Head-quarter Staff, if it is possible to judge of what is right and courteous by the correspondence between the Adjutant-General of the Army and Sir Garnet Wolseley. As things look at present, it would have been better to let Dr. Russell alone, for he is not at all the man, with all his experience and knowledge of the world, to speak out before the time, or to exaggerate, extenuate, or set down aught in malice when he does speak.

Immense excitement has been created in Paris by the recent unfortunate railway accident to a suburban train—a circumstance that clearly shows how few such disasters occur to our happy neighbours on the other side of the Channel. Attacks are made by the papers against the Government for daring to permit the existence of such calamities, though there is a reticent silence on the subject of the fog that was the immediate cause of the contretemps that damaged small tradesmen and Parisian actors alike. The tradesmen, frightened

out of their lives, have resolved to abandon at once their villas at Asnières, and the managers of the theatres have issued an edict that for the future none of the artists or the theatrical *employés* can be permitted to live out of Paris, seeing that on this particular night of the accident two comedians were nearly killed and the performances were delayed at several theatres for want of the proper company. Such a rule has for some time existed at the *Fransois*; and the year before last a waggish fellow wanted to make out that Sara Bernhardt had forfeited her undertaking because she sailed away over the chimney-pots of the capital in a balloon. At any rate, this gifted lady made amusing matter out of this escapade in a very amusing little book purporting to be the story of a rush-bottomed chair.

A curious point was raised between audience and author the other evening on the occasion of a new play at the Adelphi. It comes to this—is an author disrespectful who refuses to accept the doubtful compliment of being called before the curtain to receive the congratulations of all those assembled? The play pleased, the author was called; his absence was accounted for; and immediately those who were so emphatic with their cheering promptly turned round and groaned at the name of the gentleman who had evidently given them a pleasant entertainment. In the opinion of many, Mr. W. G. Wills was perfectly wise in setting his face against a custom that has gradually lost all significance. There is no compliment whatever in these calls, for authors at the end of a play are as often called out to be hissed and ridiculed as to be cheered. Many people have often wondered how, for the gratification of a moment's vanity, so many authors subject themselves to insult and annoyance. The place for an author on the first night is not behind the scenes, where custom has declared he shall be, dressed up to come on, for evil or good, directly the play is over, but in a private box, from which commanding position he can bow or not as he thinks fit. As matters stand, from being so entirely *en evidence* and part and parcel of the show, very little respect is shown to the dramatic author of to-day. The French custom is far the best, never to announce the author's name until the end of the representation, and to forbid strictly any "calls" except to the various artists engaged. After rehearsals the author has no business on the stage at all, and if there is one thing likely to flurry the company on a first night it is the fidgety presence and the nervous advice of this restless individual. But when audiences take to hissing and jeering an unsuccessful author, that gentleman, if he have any respect for himself or his calling, will never encourage a broken and departed custom.

Amongst the curiosities of St. Valentine's Day as practised in the present year may be noted an undue prevalence of sarcasm, ridicule, and unkindliness, in contrast to the old and familiar idea of love and tenderness and devotion. Instead of choosing a Valentine on whom may be devoted pretty thoughts, neat verses, and thoughtful presents, the tone of the times, according to the evidence of the shop windows, is to recall and emphasize the worst features of the male and female character. One novelty is the introduction of cartoons liberally painted in a bright green colour that is supposed to be typical of jealousy, and a dragon-like or serpentine disposition. This is not exactly an original idea, for I find Mr. Pepys doing the same thing, but in a far prettier fashion. In 1669 he bought many useful things, for his cousin—he had discarded his wife for a Valentine the old rascal—who told him she had drawn him for her Valentine. Straightway he went to the New Exchange and bought her a pair of fashionable "green silk stockings and garters and shoe strings, and two pairs of jessamy gloves, all coming to about twenty-eight shillings." London shops do not exhibit green silk stockings, but verdant Valentines.

THE DISTRESS IN IRELAND.

Our Special Artist's Sketch, engraved for this week's publication, shows the doleful groups of starving and destitute people, waiting outside the Courthouse in the city of Galway, who have begged for doles of "yellow meal" to be granted by the relief committee there. As this subject has been discussed night after night in the House of Commons since the opening of Parliament, and members of the Government have given authentic information of the actual state of the country, our readers will have had an opportunity of estimating the facts officially reported, and the very serious prospects in the near future. The two committees at Dublin, that of the Duchess of Marlborough and the Mansion House Committee, have been going on with their charitable work, separately and independently, but in a friendly spirit of emulation, and the amount they have raised, adding one fund to the other, is about £150,000. On Tuesday last, at the meeting of the Duchess of Marlborough's committee, Lord R. Churchill read a large number of reports from all the distressed districts, which went to show that the distress, although on the increase, is still being in a great measure met by the efforts of the local committees of the two funds. The Duchess has made a direct appeal to Australia for help, and she has again written to the Lord Mayor of London thanking him for the remittances he has regularly sent during the last six weeks. In America, the *New York Herald*, which will have nothing to do with Mr. Parnell, has opened a relief subscription for the Irish poor, and has already raised 150,000 dols. Her Majesty's Government here in London, besides the measures already notified, has formed a committee of the heads of departments and the officials connected with Irish affairs to hold sittings at the offices of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and to devise further ways and means of relief. We feel sure that there will be need of all that can be done to ward off the impending calamity in the western parts of Ireland before the coming of summer.

At the Mansion House, yesterday week, the Lady Mayoress presented the prizes and certificates to the successful competitors of the London Schools Swimming Club, established under the control of the London School Board, and other elementary establishments in 1875. Girls as well as boys were amongst the prize takers.

For the representation of Southwark Mr. Andrew Dunn, Liberal, Mr. George Shipton, Radical, and Mr. Edward Clarke, Conservative, were on Tuesday nominated as candidates, the polling being fixed for Friday; and on the same day Lord Lymington, Liberal, and Sir Robert Curzon, Conservative, were nominated as candidates for the representation of Barnstaple, in which there is a vacancy through the election of Mr. Waddy of Sheffield—the polling being fixed for Thursday.

It will interest the friends of phonetic spelling to know that efforts are being commenced in the direction of reform by several German publications, including the *Kölnische Zeitung*, which has dropped, among other superfluous letters, the unnecessary *s* in the termination *niss*, the *h* in such words as *Theil, Rath, Noth, Muth*, and their compounds; the *h* in the terminal *Thum*, the unnecessary *a* in *Waare*, and so on. The above-mentioned syllables now appear in the chief German papers spelt thus:—*Teil, Rat, Not, Mut, Tum, Ware*.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

The annual Highland Ball under the direction of the Gaelic Society takes place on Monday, the 16th inst.

Prizes were distributed yesterday week to the successful students of the metropolitan drawing-classes in connection with the Science and Art Department, at the Guildhall, by the Duke of Edinburgh. A silver épergne was presented to Mr. Busbridge, the teacher.

Mr. Bright presided on Tuesday evening at Union Chapel, Islington, when Mr. Dale, of Birmingham, gave an address on "Nonconformity." The right honourable gentleman, in introducing the subject, dwelt on some of the effects of religious intolerance in past times.

A report was presented at the meeting of the Metropolitan Board of Works yesterday week explanatory of steps taken by the board in carrying out the Artisans' Dwellings Act, 1875, in the metropolis. The report, which was of considerable length, was adopted without comment.

At a special meeting of the London and Westminster Bank, held at the head office in Lothbury, yesterday week, the resolutions passed at the meeting of Jan. 21 to the effect that the capital should be increased and the company registered as one of limited liability, were confirmed.

On Monday the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress entertained the Masters, Wardens, and Courts of the Haberdashers' and Vintners' Companies (in both of which the Lord Mayor holds office) with their wives, and the members of the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs' Guildhall Entertainment Committee, at dinner in the Egyptian Hall of the Mansion House.

At the Central Criminal Court on Wednesday Alexander Schossu was tried for feloniously shooting, with intent to murder, at the Rev. Adolphus Bakanowski, while officiating as priest in the Italian Church at Hatton-garden. He was found guilty, and a previous conviction for manslaughter by stabbing, in Italy, having been proved, Mr. Justice Hawkins sentenced him to penal servitude for life.

The weekly return of metropolitan pauperism shows that the total number of paupers on the last day of the fifth week in January was 98,993, of whom 48,663 were in workhouses, and 50,330 received outdoor relief. Compared with the corresponding weeks in the years 1879, 1878, and 1877, these figures show an increase of 8149, 12,757, and 12,888 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 681, of whom 559 were men, 99 women, and 23 children.

The remarkable collection of ancient medals, formed by the late Mr. George Sparkes, of Bromley, sold by Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson, and Hodge, last week, contained some of the finest and rarest coins and medals of ancient Greek, Roman, Italian, and German work in any private cabinet in England. The collection was one of well-known repute abroad, and the foreign dealers succeeded in obtaining at very high prices some of the choicest examples. The whole realized £3375.

In his annual report to the governors of the Royal Free Hospital the secretary stated that the year just passed was the most prosperous hitherto experienced by the institution. The receipts from all sources amounted to £31,861, of which the late Mr. W. Birks Rhodes by legacy contributed £20,000. Inpatients to the number of 1320 had been admitted, while 24,644 out-patients had received attention and medicine. Accommodation has now been provided for upwards of 150 beds, and the health and comfort of both patients and nurses are carefully provided for.

The annual ball (the thirty-eighth), under the immediate patronage of his Excellency the French Ambassador, in aid of the funds of the French Benevolent Society, took place at Willis's Rooms on Monday night. It was a complete success, above 400 persons attending, and the members of the French Embassy honouring the festive gathering by their presence. In the course of the night a tombola was held, prizes being sent by the Comte de Paris, the Duc de Nemours, the Duc de Chartres, Prince de Joinville, and the Duc d'Alençon, besides contributions from artists of their own works and other friends of the institution. After supper dancing was resumed.

Professor W. G. Adams, F.R.S., the President, and the council of the Physical Society of London gave a soirée at King's College on Saturday last. The guests numbered about 600, and among those who received invitations were the President of the Royal Society and the councils and officers of most of the scientific societies of London. The visitors were received in the museum of King George III., and in the adjoining rooms the Wheatstone laboratory and the College libraries, various objects of interest were exhibited. These included much of the apparatus invented by the late Sir C. Wheatstone, the original five-needle dial telegraph, the first dynamo-electric machine, and several reflecting stereoscopes.

The fifty-ninth annual general court of the governors of the Charing Cross Hospital was held in the board-room of the hospital on Wednesday—Mr. Henry Anstey Bosanquet, one of the treasurers, in the chair. The report stated that 1648 inpatients and 16,197 out-patients were treated during the year 1879, and that of the total number 5277 were cases of accident and emergency. The past year, though more satisfactory than 1878, had not been a very prosperous one. The bills outstanding on Dec. 31 amounted to £2208 16s. 11d. Lord Overstone had, on account of advanced age, resigned the office of president; and his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, K.G., had graciously consented to accept the office, and in manifestation of his active interest in the welfare of the hospital had consented to preside at a festival dinner in aid of its funds, to be held in the spring of the present year. A useful supply of old linen had been received from the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Edinburgh. Amongst the deaths during the year the council had to deplore the loss of Mr. Hancock, consulting surgeon to the institution, and formerly President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. The nursing and the domestic arrangements were still confided to the Sisterhood of St. John, which is presided over by the Bishop of London, and had, as heretofore, been carried on to the entire satisfaction of the council. Attention was called to the necessity of removing the mortuary buildings from their present close proximity to the hospital, and providing new and well-arranged premises for the medical school, the existing premises being altogether inadequate for the accommodation of the great number of students now attracted to the institution. The first part of the new school building had been commenced, and would be ready for occupation by October next. If adequate funds for the purpose could be provided the second part would be commenced at midsummer next, and the whole building be completed in the spring of 1881. Contributions amounting to £7085 had been received and £1273 promised. The further sum required was about £2000. The council trusted that at the coming festival large help will be given to enable them not only to complete this school but to extend the hospital so as to provide accommodation for 350 in-patients.

FOLK-LORE OF FEBRUARY.

A special day of interest to many in the present month is the festival of St. Valentine, although there is no recorded incident of his life that can have given rise to the various jocular customs associated with his anniversary. Whatever, however, may be the historical origin of the celebration, whether heathen or Christian, there can be no doubt of its antiquity. According to an old tradition to which Chaucer refers, birds choose their mates on St. Valentine's Day; and hence in the "Midsummer Night's Dream" Theseus asks:—

"Good-morrow, friends, St. Valentine is past;
Begin these wood-birds but to couple now!"

From this notion, it has been suggested, arose the once popular practice of choosing Valentines, and also the common belief that the first two single persons who meet in the morning of St. Valentine's Day have a great chance of becoming married to each other. There are several allusions in Pepys's Diary to the drawing of Valentines; and in a pecuniary point of view the result of the lottery often caused an enormous outlay—lady Valentines being honoured not by anonymous verses, but by substantial gifts. It appears that married and single were both liable to be chosen as a Valentine. When the Duke of York was chosen Miss Stewart's Valentine, he gave her a jewel worth £800; and in 1667 Lord Mandeville, being that lady's Valentine, presented her with a ring of the value of £300. Four days after Pepys had chosen Martha Batten for his Valentine he took her to the Exchange, and there "upon a pair of embroidered, and six pair of plain white gloves he laid out 40s." A remnant of this custom is kept up in Devonshire, where it is usual for a young woman thus to address the first man she meets on St. Valentine's Day:—

"Good-morrow, Valentine, I go to-day
To wear for you what you must pay—
A pair of gloves next Easter Day!"

the person thus invited being expected to send the gloves on the day mentioned. The observance of St. Valentine's Day has not been by any means uniform, the customs attendant upon it having varied considerably, according to the place and period. Thus, in Kent the girls burn an uncouth image called "the hollyboy," stolen from the boys; while in another part of the village boys burn an "ivy girl," stolen from the girls. In Northamptonshire it was customary for young people to "catch" their parents and each other on their first meeting on St. Valentine's morning; and they who could say, "Good-morrow, Valentine!" before they were spoken to, were entitled to a small present. In Peterborough and some of the villages in the northern part of the county sweet plum-buns were formerly made—called Valentine buns—which were given by godfathers and godmothers to their godchildren on the Sunday preceding and Sunday following St. Valentine's Day. In Hampshire, in days gone by, it was the practice for a boy to send a sash to his sweetheart on St. Valentine's Day, who was bound to return it by a bunch of ribbons to ornament his hat at Whit-sundate. In Dorsetshire, on this day, the maids suspended in the kitchen a nosegay of early flowers tied up with a true-love knot of blue ribbon. In Hertfordshire, the boys and girls assembled very early in the morning under the windows of the principal inhabitant of the village, singing the following words:—

Good-morrow to you, Valentine,
Curl your locks as I do mine,
Two before and three behind;
Good-morrow to you, Valentine.

Meanwhile, wreaths were showered down upon them from the windows, with which they adorned themselves. The girls then chose one of the youngest boys to take the lead, and, a procession being formed, they went from house to house singing the same song before each in turn. In Norwich and the neighbourhood the celebration of St. Valentine's Day is somewhat peculiar—where it is customary for valentines to be received on St. Valentine's Eve. The parcel containing the valentine—generally some article of intrinsic worth—is placed on the doorstep, and, a loud rap being given at the door, the bearer runs away. Such presents are always sent anonymously, and frequently contain a few verses, ending thus:—

If you'll be mine, I'll be thine,
And so good-morrow, Valentine.

This day is not without its love divinations. In many of the Devonshire villages, girls pluck yarrow from a man's grave, in the belief that, if they repeat certain words, their lovers will appear to them in a dream. In Derbyshire on St. Valentine's Eve the love-sick maiden goes to the churchyard, and, as the clock strikes twelve, runs round the church, repeating without intermission:—

I sow hemp-seed, hemp-seed I sow,
He that loves me best,
Come and after me mow—

the figure of her lover being supposed to appear and follow her. There are several weather proverbs connected with St. Valentine's Day—thus, in Italy they say, "St. Valentino is a critical day, it influences the next fifty." At Venice, an old adage declares "that on St. Valentine's Day the ice will only bear a finch;" and at Milan the agriculturist is admonished "to begin to pay attention to the garden."

In referring to the other days of note belonging to this month, Candlemas holds a conspicuous place. Some think it derives its name from the Roman festival of Februa, when the people were accustomed to run about the streets bearing lighted candles. Others, again, consider it traceable to the ceremony which the Church of Rome enjoins on this day—a blessing of candles by the clergy, which are afterwards distributed among the people, and carried by them lighted in solemn procession. The old English proverb,

On Candlemas Day
Throw candle and candlestick away,

is said to refer to the disuse of tapers at vespers and litanies from Candlemas until the ensuing "All Hallow Mass." On Candlemas Eve was formerly kindled the "yule-brand," which was allowed to burn till sunset, when it was put out and laid by to light the Christmas log at the next season. This, too, has been considered the orthodox date for removing the Christmas evergreens, when, according to the popular superstition, not even a leaf should be allowed to remain, since Herrick reminds us:—

For look how many leaves there be
Neglected there (maids trust to me),
So many goblins you shall see.

In Cumberland Candlemas Day is termed "Coat Lap Day." At Horbury, in Yorkshire, a curious custom is observed called "Candlemas Gills," by virtue of which every ratepayer is entitled to a gill of ale, which may be had at the Fleece Inn, or be sent for and consumed at home. The trustees of the town pay the expenses entailed by this practice. Candlemas Day has been a favourite epoch for drawing prognostics of the weather, it being a general notion that this day ought on no account to be fine:—

If Candlemas Day be fair and bright,
Winter will have another flight:
But if it be dark with clouds and rain,
Winter is gone and won't come again.

A similar superstition prevails in most parts of Europe. Thus, the Italians say that if on Candlemas Day there be snow

or hail, we shall soon have done with winter; but if there be rain or sunshine, winter will continue for forty days. The peasantry in Belgium foretell the weather on Candlemas Day by dropping the wax of a taper that has been blessed into a bowl of water. If it form little stars, it is an omen that the year will be fruitful. An old adage tells us that

When the wind's in the east on Candlemas Day,
There it will stick to the second of May.

There are sundry agricultural sayings associated with this season. In Somersetshire the farmer is told to "sow beans in Candlemas waddle"—i.e., wane of the moon; and we are also reminded how,

On Candlemas Day, if the thorns hang a drop,
Then you are sure of a good pea crop."

St. Blaize's Day (3rd) was formerly celebrated in many parts of England by large bonfires; and every seven years the wool-combers of our large manufacturing towns hold a festival in his honour. Candles, too, offered on this feast, were said to be good for the toothache and for diseased cattle. Reginald Scott gives a charm for extracting a thorn from the flesh, or a bone out of the throat:—"Blaize the martyr, and servant of Jesus Christ, commands thee to pass up or down."

The Monday before Shrove Tuesday is popularly known as Collop Monday, and in many places it is customary to eat eggs and collops. In Cornwall it is called Hall Monday, or Nickanor Night.

Shrove Tuesday was formerly devoted to feasting and merriment of every kind, but whence originated the custom of eating pancakes is a matter of uncertainty. The Pancake-Bell, which is still rung in some villages as the signal for preparing pancakes, is a survival of a custom that existed in this country before the Reformation, when a great bell was rung in every parish that none might plead forgetfulness of the ceremony of confessing and being *shiven*. At Daventry, in Northamptonshire, it is termed the "Pan-burn Bell;" in Lincolnshire the "Barley Bell," and in Kent the "Fritter Bell." In many places the children on the evening of Shrove Tuesday go from door to door singing a rhyme, of which the following is a specimen:—

We're come a shroving
For a bit of pancake,
Or a piece of bacon,
Or a little truckle cheese
Or your own making.
Is your pan hot?
Is your pan cold?
Is your bread and cheese cut?
Is your best barrel tapped?
We're come a shroving.

In Dorsetshire and Wiltshire this practice is known as "Lent Crooking." At Norwich it was customary to eat a small bun, called cooque'eis or coquilles, so called, perhaps, because sold at the sport of "throwing at the cock" on this day. At Earls Barton, Northamptonshire, "leek parties" were made; and in Scotland "crowdie" (oatmeal and water) is eaten. Westminster School has long been famous for the custom of "tossing the pancake." There are various nick names given to Shrove Tuesday. In Hertfordshire it was formerly known as Dough-Nut Day, and in Staffordshire as "Goodish Tuesday." In some parts of Oxfordshire it is called Soft Tuesday; and a popular name for it in Somersetshire, Devonshire, and Cornwall is Sharp Tuesday. According to a Scotch rhyme,

First comes Candlemas, syne the New Moon;
The next Tuesday after is Fastren's E'en.

On an Ash Wednesday,
When thou didst stand six weeks the Jack o' Lent,
For boys to hurl there throws a penny at thee.

There are numerous weather proverbs relating to St. Matthias's Day (24th) both in England and on the Continent.

Thus we are told that "St. Matthie sends sap into the tree;" and again, at "St. Matthias sow both leaf and grass." The Bohemians say that "if St. Matthias does not break the ice he has lost his axe, and the ice will remain unbroken till St. Joseph come (March 19)."

This being Leap Year, February has twenty-nine days; for, according to the well-known distich—

Leap year coming once in four
Gives February one day more.

"Leap Day," as the extra day is called, is generally considered unlucky. Thus, those born on this critical day are said to die early, a notion which extends even to the animal creation. In Scotland the peasantry affirm that

Leap Year
Was never a good sheep year.

A similar idea, too, prevails in relation to agricultural pursuits. In France it is held that "Année bissextile, année infertile." According to a Belgian proverb, "In Leap Year the weather always changes on a Friday, for if the weather does that it always changes for the worse and not the better." By the well-known custom, which is, however, honoured more in the breach than in the observance, it is held that in Leap Year ladies are allowed to make love and propose; and woe betide the man who is ungallant enough to refuse.

The Duke of Somerset has been elected President of the Devon County Agricultural Association.

The annual festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution was held on Monday night at Freemasons' Tavern, under the presidency of the Earl of Zetland, Provincial Grand Master for North and East Yorkshire. The chairman, in proposing the toast of the evening, stated that since the formation of the institution in 1842, 509 aged brethren and 278 widows of Freemasons had been elected annuitants. At the last election 145 brethren were in receipt of a total amount of £5800, 145 widows, £4640, and 19 widows receiving half their late husbands' annuities, or £380; making the total amount given by the institution in the year £10,820. He warmly commended the institution to the support of the brethren at large. The toast was responded to by Colonel Creton, Grand Treasurer and treasurer of the institution; after which the secretary, Mr. James Terry, announced the list of subscriptions for the evening which amounted to £12,005. Of this amount the London lodges subscribed £7270. The chairman's province of North and East Yorkshire subscribed £855. The next largest provincial subscription was that of Sussex, which amounted to £600. The total amount subscribed by the provinces was nearly £800.—In responding to the toast of "The Other Masonic Charitable Institutions," Mr. Hedges, secretary of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, announced that Prince Leopold will preside at the festival of that institution on Friday April 16.

THE MONTHS: FEBRUARY.

As January is proverbially the coldest, so February is proverbially the wettest of the months. Its main feature, so far as Great Britain and Ireland are concerned, is the break-up of the winter; and, generally speaking, a very unpleasant and tedious break-up it is!

The winds at eve, with blunted point,
Blow hollow-blustering from the South. Subdued,
The frost resolves into a trickling thaw.
Loose sleet descends,
And floods the country round. The rivers swell,
Of bonds impatient.

Raw, damp, and chill, February has scarcely a redeeming quality. The trees and hedges are, to all appearance, as dead as they were in the preceding month, and are now denied even the consolation of hiding their shame beneath the snow that draped their branches earlier in the winter. Still, meagre though they be, vegetation shows one or two signs of returning spring. Flower-buds now appear on the elder-trees, and the bright red catkins of the hazel are often in full bloom before the month is half sped. And we were ingrates indeed, did we forget the little snowdrop, "the morning star of flowers"—"the first pale blossom of the unripened year." Pretty, brave, little thing, amidst the sleeping world around her, how sweet she looks hanging her bashful face, as though half-afraid she has done something unmaidenly in showing herself too soon. She looks so fragile, one would think the slightest breath of Zephyr would kill her; yet, like the palms of the tropics of which she is a blood relation, she can bend freely before the rudest blasts—with such delicacy is her flower-stalk attached to her drooping blossom. "Our Lady of February," as the monks of old used to call her, is said to be indigenous to England. In many parts of the country, notably in Lancashire, snowdrops are still found growing wild in great abundance; and well does the writer remember an old ruin in Yorkshire whose ancient banqueting-hall was carpeted with a mass of their fairy bells. Another wilding that would fain brave the inclemency of the month is the humble little celandine, whose yellow star-like blossoms may now be seen peeping from amongst its bright green leaves on the hedge-banks; and here and there, in sheltered woods, an adventurous sweet violet may be found even thus early in the year, and occasionally a crocus; but the latter is a doubtful wilding.

The first flower to tell us that winter is departing is, as it should be, a spotless virgin white, with winter lingering in its snowy veins. But turn we to the feathered race, and we shall find that the first bird-harbinger of approaching spring is raven-black—in fact, the raven itself.

A very pretty excuse for the exchange of love-tokens between young men and maidens on the fourteenth of this month, is that some of the birds now begin to mate. No longer do they haunt towns and warm manured fields as in January, but return once more to the trees and hedges that they love so well; and how welcome it must be to the shivering trees to find, spite of their nakedness, the sweet birds believe in them still! Of all our native birds none begins to build so soon as the raven, who may be called, says Stanley, "the herald of the year; for as early as the latter part of January, if the weather be mild, or, at all events, in the beginning of February, some faithful pair (for the union of male and female is for life) may be seen looking into the state of their nursery tenement, usually constructed on the upper and most inaccessible branching forth of some high tree, where they have been known to build beyond the memory of the most ancient chronicler of the parish." Few creatures have been more maligned than the raven. Not only is the grave, cunning bird looked upon with distrust by modern shepherds and farmwives, but in all ages his presence has been accepted as the precursor of evil and death. With the Greeks and Romans he was a soothsayer, and his croak sounded as an oracle to the Scandinavians. He is the "bird of night and of witchcraft"—"the grim watcher by the gibbet," who, says the poet,

Doth shake contagion from his sable wings.

But, however black may be his plumage, he is not quite so morally black as he has been painted. Go to his haunts in the rocks by the seashore, or to some of the lofty trees where he makes his nest, and watch him up there in his eyry-home, in the bosom of his family, and then say whether you can't forgive him his tricks. Remember, too, that the raven is as much a harbinger of Spring as the snowdrop; for, though some of the more hardy birds begin to pair about the middle of the month, these are only wooing their future mates, while the raven is making active preparations for the young family his spouse presents him with ere yet the month is over.

The other birds that are stirring thus early in the year are soon named. Amongst the songsters, we have the woodlark, the earliest and perhaps the sweetest of our warblers, the thrush, and the chaffinch. Rooks begin to pair as the month advances; and, a fit accompaniment to the February rains, the dismal hoot of the wood-owl may be heard above the dripping and patterning of wet.

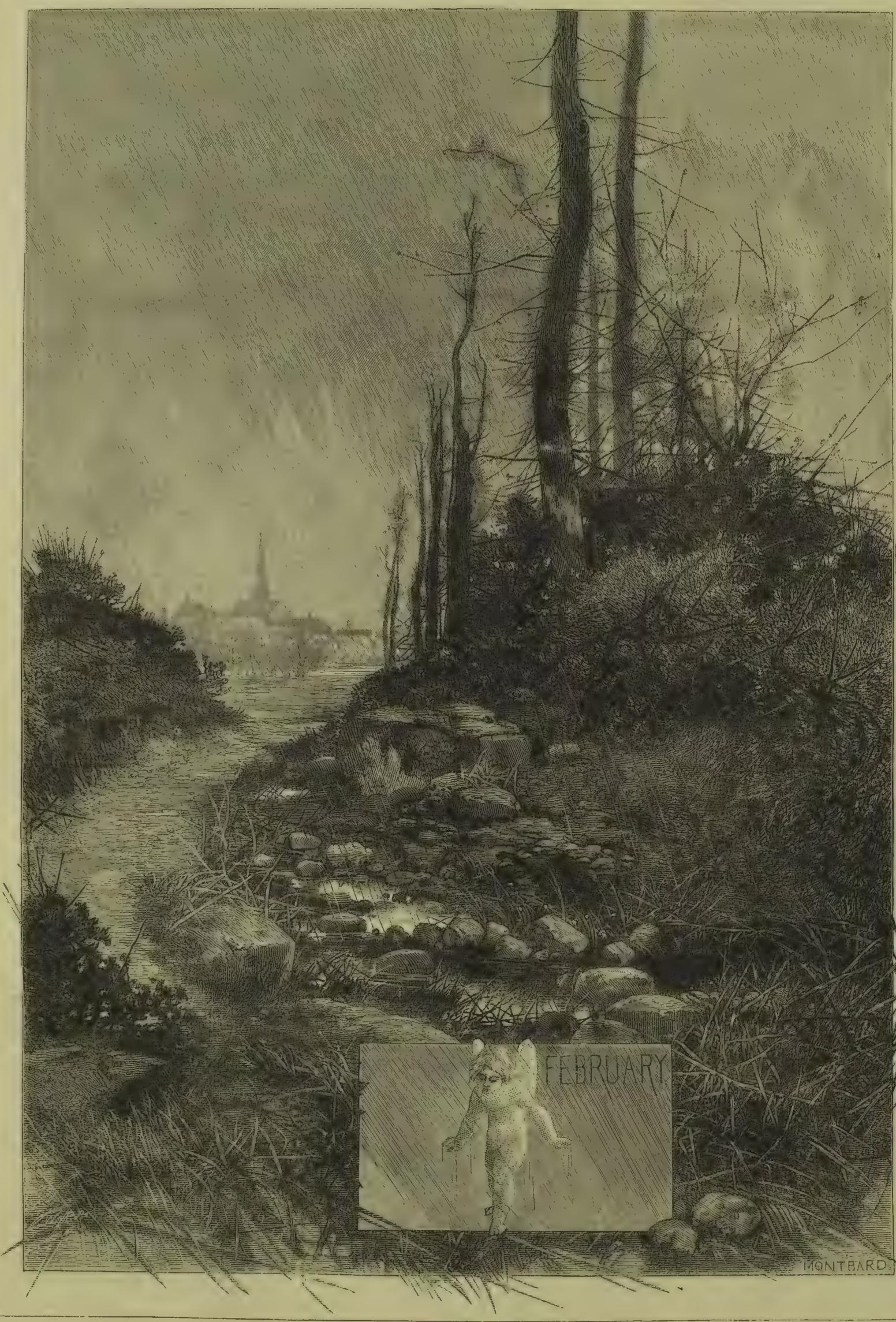
Towards the close of the month partridges begin to couple—those of the devoted race who have escaped the fowler and the murderous battue. A seven-months' truce is granted to them and the pheasants—dating from Feb. 1. But though shooting, properly speaking, is over, there is still left some "gunning," as our American cousins call it. Woodcocks have not yet migrated to their summer quarters, and are about the best sport of the month. As the bird rises heavily and makes considerable noise with his wings, he is soon "spotted." So long as he only skims the wet pasturage in the meres or the rills that skirt the woods he is an easy shot; but when sprung in a large wood, where he has to get to the top of the trees before he takes his flight, he proves the skill of his enemy as much as any of the game birds. Besides woodcock and snipe shooting, there are the wildfowl that came over in immense flights early in the winter from northern regions, to make a temporary home in our fens and marshes.

February is a good month for coursing, in spite of the wet; for the hares run strongly, and the dogs are in fine form after the Christmas vacation. It is the month when the best hounds in the kingdom meet in contest for the highest honours of the leash; but there is generally this proviso for the Waterloo Cup—"weather permitting." How fervently poor puss must bless the rainy days of February!—for, whenever the drip and patter cease, all the kennels are out: she has an especially hard time of it just now, as her day of grace is close at hand—hare-hunting terminating on the twenty-seventh of the month. Reynard, too, is still sorely pressed, when the ground is not too sodden.

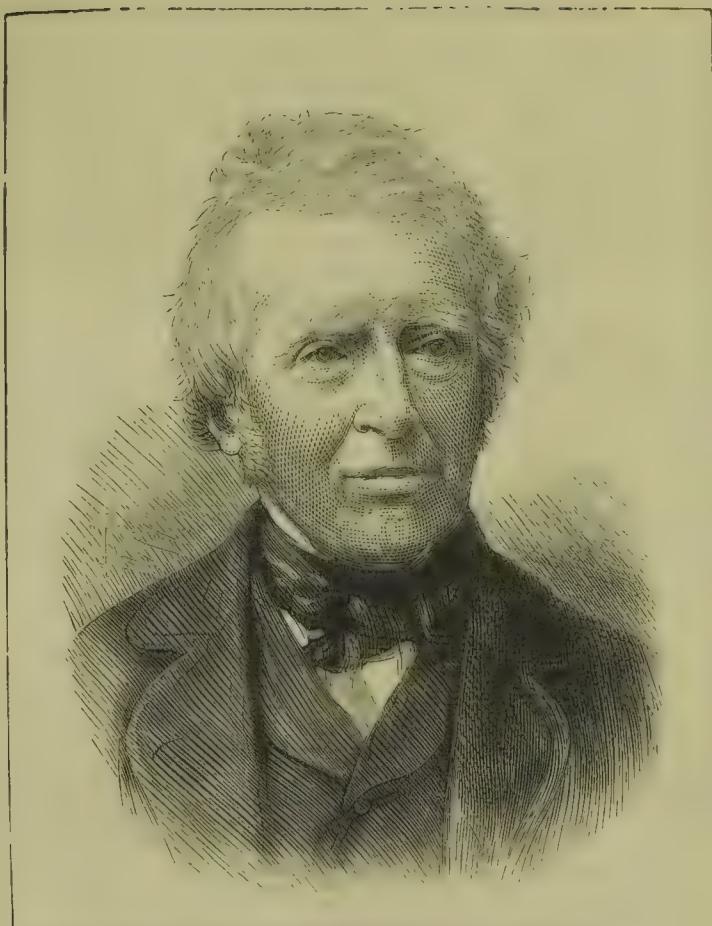
Advices from Dominica report a volcanic eruption on that island on the 4th inst.

The Great Council of Appenzel, in Switzerland, have voted the re-establishment of capital punishment by a considerable majority.

The Masters of the Bench of the Inner Temple have awarded Pupil Scholarships of one hundred guineas each to the undermentioned students:—Mr. R. H. Griffin, common law; Mr. W. P. Pain, equity; Mr. A. B. Winter, real property law.



THE MONTHS: FEBRUARY.—SEE PAGE 155.

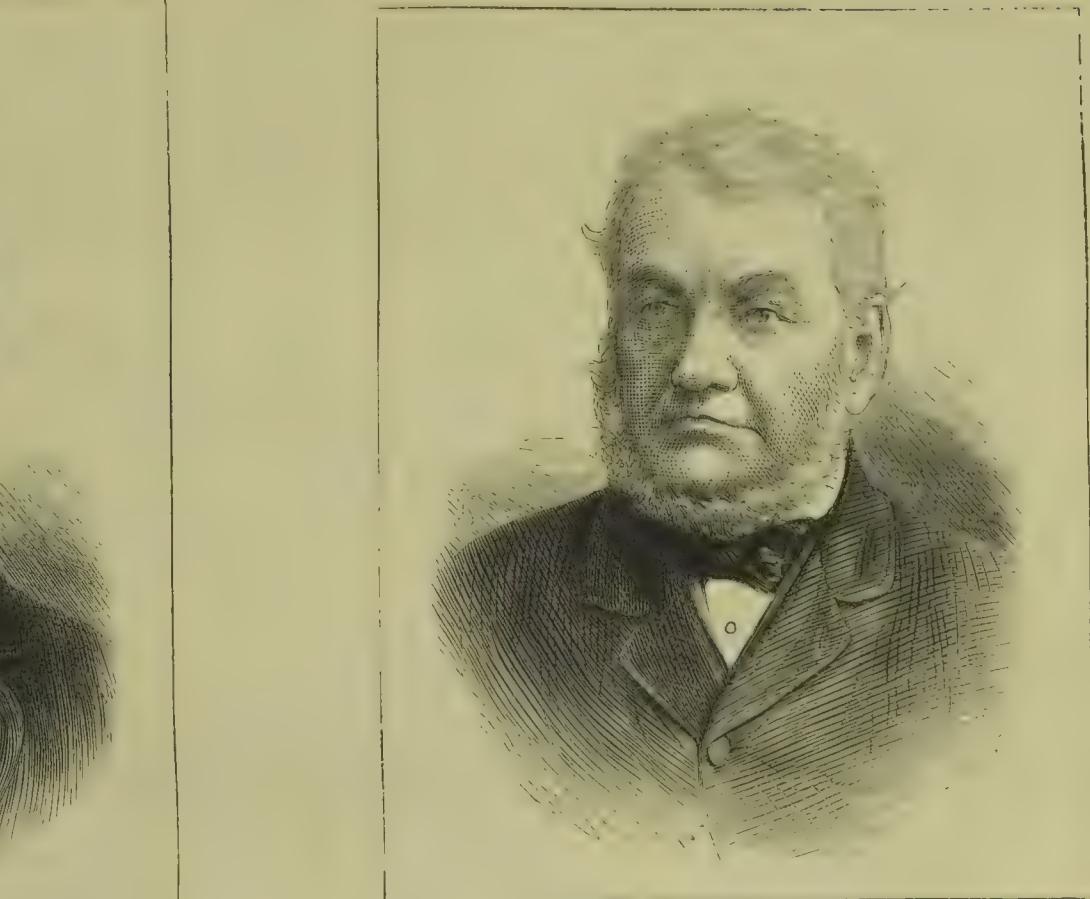


THE LATE SIR W. ERLE.

THE LATE SIR WILLIAM ERLE.

This distinguished lawyer, born in 1793, was the son of a Dorsetshire clergyman, and was educated at Winchester and at New College. Having graduated B.C.L. in 1818, Mr. Erle was called to the Bar in the following year, and went the Western Circuit, where he soon secured a large practice. In 1834 he married the eldest daughter of the Rev. Dr. Williams, Warden of New College and Prebendary of Winchester. Soon afterwards he became a King's Counsel. In the Parliament summoned in 1837 he represented the city of Oxford in the Liberal interest, but he did not offer himself for re-election in 1841. In 1844 he was appointed one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, was transferred to the Queen's Bench two years later, and in 1859, upon the elevation of Sir Alexander Cockburn as the successor to Lord Campbell, Sir W. Erle was appointed Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, a post from which he retired on Nov. 26, 1866. After his retirement from the Bench he was selected to preside over the sittings of the Royal Commission on Trades' Unions. In 1870 he was elected Honorary Fellow of New College, Oxford.

The portrait is from a photograph by T. and J. Holroyd, of Harrogate.



THE LATE MR. JOHN LOCKE, Q.C., M.P.

THE LATE MR. JOHN LOCKE, M.P.

The late member for Southwark, whose death has occasioned much regret, was the son of a gentleman long engaged in business there. He was born in London in 1805; was educated under Dr. Glennie at Dulwich, and at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he graduated B.A. 1829, and subsequently M.A. He was called to the Bar in 1833, at the Inner Temple, of which he afterwards became a Bencher, and went the Home Circuit. Mr. Locke was one of the common pleaders of the City of London from 1845 until June, 1857, when he became a Queen's Counsel, receiving the appointment of Recorder of Brighton four years later. In 1847 Mr. Locke married Laura Rosalie, daughter of the late Colonel Thomas Alexander Cobbe, of the East India Company's Service, and niece of the late Mr. Charles Cobbe, of Newbridge House, in the county of Dublin. At the general election of 1852 Mr. Locke came forward in the Liberal interest for the borough of Hastings, but was unsuccessful. At the dissolution of Parliament in April, 1857, he offered himself for Southwark and was returned. The votes polled were as follows:—Admiral Sir Charles Napier (L), 3991; Mr. John Locke (L), 3647; Mr. Apsley Pellatt (L), 2499. In 1859 the same candidates again fought, and

occupied the same relative positions. In 1865 Mr. Locke was returned without opposition, with Mr. Layard (now Sir Henry), British Ambassador at Constantinople. In 1868 Mr. Alderman Cotton stood as a Conservative candidate, but was at the bottom of the poll. At the last general election the deceased member was returned at the head of the poll, with 5901 votes; Colonel Beresford was second with 5716; Mr. George Odger third, with 3106; and Mr. Andrew Dunn fourth, with 3121. Mr. Locke issued an address some time ago announcing that he did not intend to seek re-election to the next Parliament. He was the author of a Treatise on the Game Laws, and of another legal treatise.

The portrait is from a photograph by Reutlinger, of Paris.

THE LATE LIEUTENANT H. H. FORBES.

The recent expedition against the Naga tribes on the north-eastern frontier of India, to chastise the insurgents guilty of the murder of Mr. Damant, has been noticed in our Journal. It was on Nov. 22 that the fortified village of Khonoma, occupied by a thousand fighting men with plenty of fire-arms, was stormed by part of the force under command of Brigadier-



THE LATE LIEUTENANT H. H. FORBES.



THE LATE CAPTAIN W. LAWRELL.—SEE PAGE 158.

General Nation. The rampart and stockade were defences of a formidable kind, but the assault was gallantly performed by the 4th Regiment of Bengal Native Infantry, under Colonel Nuttall, C.B.; and three of the leading officers, Major Cock, Deputy-Assistant-Adjutant-General, Lieutenant Ridgeway, and Lieutenant Forbes, received wounds, from which Major Cock and the last-named young officer died. The portrait of Lieutenant Henry Hodges Forbes, who belonged to the 3rd Buffs, but was attached to the 4th Native Infantry in order to qualify him for Indian Staff employment, is given in this week's Paper. He was only twenty-one years of age, and was eldest son of Colonel Henry T. Forbes, of Sylhet, Assam, lately retired from the Bengal Staff Corps; he was grandson of the Hon. Robert Forbes, a retired member of the Bengal Civil Service, residing at Calverley Park, Tunbridge Wells. He had passed several examinations with very great credit, showing equal devotion to his studies and talent for the acquirement of native languages, by which he won the Government prize of 1500 rupees; and his gallantry in the action which cost his life has been described by some brother officers with much admiration.

The portrait is from a photograph by Bourne and Shepherd.

THE LATE CAPTAIN LAWRELL.

At the capture of Secokuni's town, in the Transvaal, by the troops under command of Lieutenant-General Sir Garnet Wolseley, on Nov. 28, Captain Walter Lawrell, of the 4th Hussars, acting as orderly officer to Colonel Baker Russell, who commanded in that action, was one of the few officers killed. He was only son of the Rev. John Lawrell, and was educated at the Charterhouse. He entered the Army in December, 1865, as Cornet in the 9th Lancers, in which regiment, by a strange coincidence, so many of his old brother-officers were falling in Afghanistan nearly at the time of his own death. He exchanged into the 4th Hussars, and on their return from India volunteered for service at the Cape, and took out men and horses for the cavalry there, a duty which he discharged most creditably. Sir Garnet Wolseley, in a letter to his Colonel, says:—"He was a most keen soldier, and loud in his expression of satisfaction at having at last an opportunity given him of seeing some active work." The General further says, "Her Majesty has lost a very gallant soldier, but he died as most soldiers wish to die."

The portrait is from a photograph by Elliott and Fry.

FATAL EFFECTS OF THE FOG AND COLD IN LONDON.

There has been an extraordinary mortality in London. The Registrar-General's weekly return states that during last week 5983 births and 5944 deaths were registered in London and twenty-two other large towns of the United Kingdom.

In London 2684 births and 3376 deaths were registered. Allowing for increase of population, the births exceeded by 14, and the deaths by 1657, the average numbers in the corresponding week of the last ten years. The annual death-rate from all causes, which had been equal to 24·6, 27·1, and 31·3 in the three preceding weeks, further rose last week to 48·1 per 1000. The death-rate last week, under the influence of the cold and fog, was higher than it has been in any week since the cholera epidemics of 1849, 1854, and 1866. The nearest approach in recent years to so high a rate of mortality as that which prevailed in London last week was recorded in the week ending December, 1873, when the death-rate was 37·5 per 1000, influenced then, as it was last week, by low temperature and dense fogs. Compared with the deaths in the preceding week, those registered last week showed an increase of 54 per cent. The largest proportional excess of deaths last week occurred among persons aged upwards of sixty years.

The deaths included 13 from smallpox, 34 from measles, 66 from scarlet fever, 6 from diphtheria, 248 from whooping-cough, 23 from different forms of fever, and 11 from diarrhoea; thus to the seven principal diseases of the zymotic class 401 deaths were referred, against 294 and 341 in the two preceding weeks. The fatal cases of whooping-cough were unprecedentedly numerous. The deaths referred to diseases of the respiratory organs, which had been 559 and 757 in the two preceding weeks, further rose to 1557 last week, and exceeded the corrected weekly average by 1118. This remarkable fatality of lung diseases was probably due to the combined effect of the cold and the fog. The fatal cases of bronchitis, which had been 531 in the previous week, rose to 1223 last week.

Different forms of violence caused 78 deaths: of these 68 were the result of negligence or accident, including 25 from fractures and contusions, 32 from burns and scalds, 13 from drowning, and 16 of infants under one year of age from suffocation.

The deaths of three reputed centenarians are recorded in the Registrar-General's returns this week. Two were female inmates of the Westminster and Pancras Workhouses, whose ages were stated to be 101 and 102 years respectively; and one was the widow of a builder, who died in Lambeth, and whose age was stated by her daughter-in-law to be 113 years.

The Queen has presented a West Indian turtle to the Directors of the Brighton Aquarium.

Mr. Lowe addressed the Croydon Liberal Association on Tuesday evening, and indicated what he conceived to be the state in which the foreign policy of the last five years had landed the country, maintaining that that policy had been injurious to our interests.

As the Brighton Railway Company has consented to carry the Metropolitan Volunteers to that town on Easter Monday, the committee of officers will now confer with the local authorities respecting the arrangements for the review.—Last Saturday the annual distribution of prizes to the London Artillery Brigade took place in the Guildhall, the Lady Mayoress handing them to the recipients. At the close of the ceremony Mr. Sheriff Woolton gave some particulars of the brigade, congratulating the members on its progress.—The first three months of the Volunteer year, 1879-80, are now completed. Between Nov. 1 and Jan. 31, 209 combatant officers of Volunteers have retired, and 140 new appointments have been made. In the corresponding three months in 1878-9, there was a net loss of 107 officers.

The annual meeting of the governors and subscribers to the Ventnor Consumption Hospital was held yesterday week at the offices, 12, Pall-mall. Viscount Eversley, the president, in the chair. The yearly statement showed that the receipts for the year 1879 amounted to £8374, and the expenditure to £6935. A donation of £1000 (included in the above) was acknowledged from a friend "E. P. P. J.," and also legacies amounting to £1000. The medical report showed that 570 inpatients had been treated during the past year, and 368 had left much improved; the mortality being only fifteen. These favourable results were chiefly owing to the special advantages conferred by the separate system on which the hospital is built, and owing to the cases being restricted to those in the early stage or arrested if in the later stages of the disease.—Lord Rosebery will preside at the biennial dinner in aid of the funds, on April 30, at Willis's Rooms.

NEW BOOKS.

The unsatisfactory prospects of the South African colonies and adjoining territories, after the late enormous waste of public money and of military exertions for their settlement, cannot be put out of sight. Every contribution to our knowledge of the real state of those countries should have a degree of value proportioned to its authenticity and veracity, and the amount of its information. We cannot, however, say that much is to be learned from Dr. Rowland Atcherley's volume, *A Trip to Boerland*, published by Mr. Bentley. The author spent little more than six months in the Transvaal, during the first year of its "annexation;" that is to say, of Sir T. Shepstone's sequestration of its government, in April, 1877, despite the solemn protests of the Volksraad, the President and Executive Council, and nearly the whole adult population of freeborn Dutch Republicans. Dr. Atcherley, however, was no politician, one way or the other, but a scientific mineralogist and practical gold-digger. His description of the Lydenburg gold-fields, which included the Macmac, Spitzkop, and Pilgrim's Rest diggings, is a melancholy tale of sordid drudgery and dire disappointment. The first adventurers seem to have been successful in picking up loose grains of the precious ore from alluvial sand or gravel; but those who came afterwards only wasted their labour and money. The want of sufficient water, in convenient situations, to wash out the earth as it is shovelled up, with the enormous cost of sawn timber and other materials for the needful erections, would appear to have been fatal. The whole community of diggers, and of storkeepers or other caterers for its accommodation, throughout the entire district, had fallen to about five hundred, English, Scotch or Irish, Americans, Australians, and Germans, many of them from the Kimberley Diamond-Fields. It was by the intrigues of some of these people, a mere handful of foreigners in a remote corner of the Transvaal territory, that the Colonial Office in London, grossly deceived concerning the position of the Dutch Republic in 1876, was entrapped into permitting the arbitrary act of annexation performed in April of the next year. The Lydenburg clique of desperate speculators had expected to retrieve their private fortunes by bringing in the British Government, with its probable expenditure in contract jobs and official appointments. They organised, through certain English colonial papers, a regular system of wholesale defamation and misrepresentation. The Boers, who read and write little English, were unable to reply to these backbiting calumnies against the Transvaal. They were utterly taken by surprise when Sir T. Shepstone suddenly announced that it was to be absorbed in the British dominions. Dr. Atcherley reached Lydenburg in August, four months after this singular transaction. We must say that his account of the small English population there, and of the manner in which Sir T. Shepstone came among them, does not at all increase our respect for their influence or character. The "rowdy" element was largely present amongst them. He was at Pretoria, the capital of the Transvaal, about the beginning of 1878. There, again, he saw the stubborn attitude of menacing opposition which had been assumed by the sturdy Boers, and which Sir T. Shepstone could only repress by a proclamation threatening the severest punishment. Now this was long before the subjugation of the Zulus and of Secokuni. It, therefore, completely disproves the recent assertion that the Boers accepted British Government when they were in difficulty or danger from their hostile native neighbours, and that they have shown disaffection only since their relief from that pressure. This assertion is as devoid of truth as most of the other statements that have been put forth to justify the annexation of the Transvaal. There never was a moment at which the Boers failed to repudiate and protest against that unwarrantable usurpation. Their twice repeated formal protests were conveyed to England by their own delegates, but were received by the Secretary of State with civil indifference, and scarcely obtained due consideration in our Houses of Parliament. It is a little too much for anybody, in the face of these certain facts, to say that the Boers ever consented to become subjects of the British Empire. The reader of Dr. Atcherley's book will see the disposition of those rude and simple but liberty-loving people, as they were and are; and he will perhaps feel the manifest injustice with which they have been treated.

Another chapter, of somewhat older date, in the discreditable history of British South African government, is related in a volume bearing the singular title, *My Chief and I*, which is published by Messrs. Chapman and Hall. The author has chosen to call himself "Atherton Wylde." Although this is, we believe, an assumed name, there is no reason to doubt that his personal experiences in Natal, and his association, for a time, with the late Colonel Durnford, R.E., of whom he speaks as "My Chief," are facts of authentic report. He confesses himself to have been guilty of some youthful indiscretions, which led to his dismissal from the Queen's service. He afterwards went out to Natal as an ordinary emigrant, in a desperate state of mind and character as well as of fortune; and there he unexpectedly met with his old commanding officer, who most kindly gave him another chance of respectability and social usefulness. Major Durnford held the office of Colonial Engineer; and the young man got employment during several months of 1874 in superintending parties of Zulu labourers on the high roads. It was the year following the celebrated "Langalibalele scare," which cannot fairly be called a revolt or insurrection. Langalibalele was the chief of the Amahlubi tribe, settled in Natal colonial territory under the supervision of a resident English magistrate. He disobeyed some orders of that functionary; and, to escape being called to account, resolved with all his tribe to depart from the British dominions. The Amahlubi, neither molesting nor threatening anybody, setting forth as peaceful emigrants, quitted their allotted location, and were presently going over the Drakensberg frontier into Basuto Land, driving their cattle with them. Sir Benjamin Pine, then Lieutenant-Governor of Natal, took it into his head that this pacific exodus of several thousand Zulus was an act of treason. He ordered them to be pursued and stopped by the colonial militia forces or volunteers. Now, it unfortunately happened that a party of these, under Major Durnford, came into collision with a party of the emigrating Zulus. It was a mere accidental skirmish, but three gentlemen of the Natal Carabiners were killed. There was a cry for vengeance among the colonists, as usual in such cases; and a cruel vengeance was taken by utterly despoiling the Amahlubi tribe, killing above two hundred, who were not slain in fair fight, sending all the rest, men, women, and children, to enforced servitude, taking all their cattle, and wantonly destroying their huts, fields, and other property. As if this were not enough, the Colonial authorities next made a raid upon the Putili, a neighbouring tribe, who had given offence by sheltering refugees of the Amahlubi, but were perfectly innocent of any rebellious act. This tribe was treated with almost equal severity in December, 1873; and it was some of the Putili, working in penal bondage on the roads of the colony, that Major Durnford had in charge six months later. Now Major Durnford was a just and benevolent man,

who felt both shame and regret for the merciless treatment of the Zulus, against which he remonstrated in vain. He sought to win a pardon for the Putili tribe from the Lieutenant-Governor of Natal. He volunteered for this end, in the hardest time of winter, to lead the men up into the snowy mountains, where the climate is of extreme rigour, and to make them perform certain arduous tasks which were required, on condition that their tribe should be freed and restored to its home. The Lieutenant-Governor, Sir B. Pine, as well as the Acting Secretary for Native Affairs, Mr. Shepstone, gave this promise to Major Durnford, as it is said; and that officer, assisted by the author of this narrative, led the willing and obedient natives, a hundred strong, up into the Alpine passes. Their sojourn of two months, with all their labours and adventures, in that elevated region of the Drakensberg, which was trying to the strength and endurance of robust Englishmen, is described by "Atherton Wylde" in a graphic and picturesque style. But when their toil was accomplished, and they returned to Pietermaritzburg, Major Durnford found, to his astonishment, that the Lieutenant-Governor did not mean to release and restore the Putili tribe. Sir Benjamin Pine and the Shepstons (who are not mentioned by name, but are designated by the offices they held at that time) then said that there had been a mistake, and that the intention had been only to release the men who actually worked under Major Durnford. We do not imagine that "Atherton Wylde," or anybody else, would impute to either of those official gentlemen an intentional want of veracity. They seem not to have had a very exact remembrance of the extent of their own promise; for when Major Durnford insisted, and declared that his honour and that of the Government were involved in the question, the Lieutenant-Governor had to give way. The whole case of the Putili tribe was soon afterwards laid before the Earl of Carnarvon, Secretary of State, who decided that the Putili were guiltless of any act deserving punishment, and ordered them to be set free and reinstated in their possessions. But this tardy measure of redress could not be fully carried into effect, as their cattle, to the number of seven or eight thousand head, had been sold under confiscation, and no account of the sales or money had been kept. A comparatively trifling sum only was granted for their relief in actual distress. The Amahlubi tribe, who had never been in actual insurrection, were made far greater sufferers; while their chieftain, the famous Langalibalele, was subjected to an irregular trial and a severe sentence, afterwards quashed on proof of its illegality by the exertions of Bishop Colenso. These transactions, which preceded the mission of Sir Garnet Wolseley to Natal in 1875, are now recalled to our memory by the publication of "My Chief and I." The occasion for this publication, however, is the recent lamented death of Colonel Durnford, fighting at the head of the Natal volunteers and other mounted colonial troops on the disastrous field of Isandlwana. His virtues, as a man and Christian, as a public servant and soldier, were doubtless such as to be amply deserving of the like tribute of personal regard. It will not be forgotten, either, that he was one of the English official Commissioners of Inquiry who examined the disputed Zulu boundary question in April, 1878, and who found that Cetewayo was in the right. They condemned the encroachments of the Transvaal border settlers, and directed that the land should be given back to the Zulu kingdom. But Sir Theophilus Shepstone, having taken the administration of the Transvaal territory into his own hands, was then obliged to convert himself into an advocate of its pretended land claims. Sir Bartle Frere was thus persuaded to withhold publication of the commissioners' award from April to December, by which time he and Lord Chelmsford had prepared the military force, and all was ready for the declaration of war against the Zulus. It was not the fault of Colonel Durnford; but he was one of the earliest and noblest victims of that deplorable policy.

A volume of essays upon subjects of literary criticism, by Mr. Samuel Davey, F.R.S.L., which is published by Mr. E. Bumpus, Holborn, deserves commendation for the originality and consistency of thought with which the author has reviewed many important ethical questions. Several of these papers, treating of the Darwinian theory, the moral and religious bearing of Carlyle's writings, and the merits of Dickens in the imaginative portraiture of social life, and of De Quincey as a transcendental critic, appeared in print four years ago, having previously been delivered as lectures to audiences at local institutions, who received them with much satisfaction. They have apparently gained equal proportionate favour with the general reading public, since a new edition was lately required, to which Mr. Davey has added some fresh contributions not at all inferior in value. These consist of a lecture on "Heroism," the argument of which may be accepted as continuing and completing the high theme of moral philosophy suggested by the former notice of Carlyle; one dealing with "The Fools, Jesters, and Comic Characters in Shakespeare," which is particularly attractive, reminding us of some of the late Cowden Clarke's lectures on similar subjects; and one presenting an instructive analysis of the historical element in Shakespeare's plays of English history. The essays on "Wit and Humour" and "Modern Civilisation" will also be found to have a certain implied coherency with those above mentioned, which treat more expressly of literary topics. Mr. Davey seems, indeed, to be endowed with that reflective habit of mind and love of broad general principles which prompt him to rise above incidental criticisms, after having detected and delineated the main features of contemporary literature, and to ascertain some essential truths serviceable in practice to human welfare. This is the spirit of his inquiries and discussions in the present volume, which merits our sincere approval.

Mr. R. F. Cobbold, B.A., late Scholar of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, has been appointed to an assistant-mastership at Trent College.

The Court of Appeal decided on Tuesday that Messrs. Kelly had no exclusive right to the use of the words "Post-Office Directory." Messrs. Kelly, having compiled a directory of the West Riding of Yorkshire, took proceedings to restrain Mr. Byles, of Bradford, from publishing a "Post-Office Bradford Directory." All the Courts had decided in favour of Mr. Byles, and their decision was now confirmed.

The Orient steamer Chimborazo which left Plymouth on Sunday for Australia, experienced terrific weather and put back on Tuesday morning. The owners report that one saloon passenger named Boyer and three of the crew were washed overboard and drowned. A second saloon passenger named Jones died from injuries, and there are fifteen cases of broken limbs. Six boats were lost; all the decks, skylights, and hatches were washed away, the smoking-room was destroyed, the front saloon entrance and captain's cabin were stove in, and other damage was done on deck. The engines and hull are all right, but the spar deck is strained. The injured persons were landed and taken to the hospital. The rest of the passengers were landed in the evening, and the ship will go to London for his life.

MR. PLANCHÉ'S EXTRAVAGANZAS.

The learned and accomplished gentleman who holds the office of Somerset Herald in that august corporation, the College of Arms, is not only a great historical antiquary, a literary critic and scholar of high attainments, and an authority upon the dramatic art, but is also the oldest and best author of light fantastic pieces for the London stage. It is more than sixty years ago—the date was April 21, 1818, when Mr. James Robinson Planché was but twenty-two years of age—that his first burlesque play, "Amoroso, King of Little Britain," was represented at Drury-Lane Theatre. His last contribution of this kind was the lyrical portion of "Babil and Bijou," a fairy spectacle mainly composed and arranged by Mr. Dion Boucicault, exhibited at Covent Garden, Aug. 29, 1872. A hundred and seventy-six pieces, of which seventy-two were original, and sixty-two of these written entirely by Mr. Planché, make a large mass of theatrical literature proceeding from the industry of one man, ten only of the original plays being written by him jointly with Mr. Charles Dance. Those which are not claimed as original were translations or adaptations from various sources, which are sufficiently well known or were expressly acknowledged in the titles. It has been wisely considered by the numerous friends of Mr. Planché, the admirers of his genius and his labours for the stage, that a most fitting testimonial of personal regard would be to print and issue, by private subscription, a collection of the choice "Extravaganzas" which used to afford so much wholesome pleasure to the playgoing world of our youth and of an earlier generation. The task of editorial supervision was intrusted to Mr. T. F. Dillon Croker and Mr. Stephen Croker (Rouge Croix Pursuivant at the Heralds' College), who have been assisted by Mr. Charles Roach Smith, F.S.A.; and the result is now presented in five handsome volumes, which the subscribers will be glad to possess. For Mr. Planché's entertaining plays are not mere stage business, or mere grimace of passing drollery, effective only for an hour behind the foot-lights; they are genuine comic literature, abounding in fine qualities of humour, wit, and fancy, with an Aristophanic or Rabolaisian faculty of illustrating the oddities, the shams, the inconsistencies, the apparent or latent contradictions of real life, by the aid of exaggerated idealism, adorned with a profuse display of verbal quips and cranks, but never relying upon the punster's artifice solely to produce amusement. The punster who is nothing more than a punster, or a punning versifier and skilful playwright, may deserve his success at the theatre, but cannot expect to be read, and has no claim to stand upon our library shelves. Such is not Mr. Planché, whose vigorous imaginative conceptions, though attired in the jester's garb of motley, with cap and bells, and bauble in hand, have nothing ignobly fatuous in their form and gestures. They evince considerable intellectual power, sound sense, and a shrewd perception of social absurdities, which are satirised in a manner perfectly inoffensive, but effectual to reprove and discourage, on the principle of *ridendo dico et verum*. An example of this may be found in his clever parallel composition to "The Birds" of Aristophanes, where the Poet, the Architect, the Legislator, and the Speculator, one after another, present themselves with unreal schemes and baseless pretensions, at the Court of the Bird King in Cloudland. Mr. Planché's constructive fancy is admirably displayed in the delightful fairy dramas of "The Invisible Prince," "King Charming," "The Yellow Dwarf," and others, the subjects of which were taken from the tales in French by the Comtesse d'Aulnois. The first of these three was played at the Haymarket at Christmas, 1846; the second, at the Lyceum, by Mr. Charles Mathews and Madame Vestris, in 1850; and the third, by Mr. Frederick Robson, at the Olympic, in 1854. We are inclined to think Mr. Planché will be better remembered by these plays than by any of the others, some of which, like "The Seven Champions of Christendom," deal more in allusions to contemporary political events. "The Prince of Happy Land," performed at the Lyceum in 1851, is also to be regarded as one of the best of this class of highly-finished works. Mr. Planché's brief introductory notices, pre-fixed to each of the plays in the present collection, give some account of their motives and occasions, and bear record of the part taken by the managers, actors, and actresses of the day, in those exertions which gained them a theatrical success. Portraits of some of those ladies and gentlemen, who were, and deserved to be, great popular favourites, and to whom we have owed no small amount of harmless pleasure, adorn these five volumes. The publisher is Mr. Samuel French, 89, Strand, but only a limited number of copies are for sale.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

CASSEL, PETER, and GALPIN: The Educational Year-Book for 1880.

CHAPMAN AND HALL: Her Dignity and Grace. A Tale. By H. C. 3 vols.

CHATTO AND WINDUS: The Reader's Handbook of Allusions, References, Plots, and Stories. With Two Appendices. By the Rev. E. Cobham Brewer, LL.D.

CIVIL SERVICE PUBLISHING COMPANY: Civil War in Home and Land. A Novel. By the Author of "A Bride from the Rhine-land."

CRATTAN AND MARSHALL: A King's Daughter; and Other Poems. By Samuel Robert Keightley. Second Edition.

HODDER AND STOUGHTON: Studies in Life. Lectures. By H. Sinclair Paterson, M.D.

HOMEOPATHIC PUBLISHING COMPANY: Stammering, and its Rational Treatment. By E. B. Shuldharn.

MACMILLAN: The Year's Art. Compiled by Marcus B. Huish.

The Life of John Milton: Narrated in connection with the Political, Ecclesiastical, and Literary History of his Time. By D. Masson. Vol. VI. 1860-1874.

JOHN MURRAY: The River of Golden Sand. The Narrative of a Journey through China and Eastern Tibet and Burmah. With Illustrations and Ten Maps from Original Surveys. By Capt. W. Gill, Royal Engineers. 2 vols.

NEWMAN: New Bulgaria. By J. Lewis Farley.

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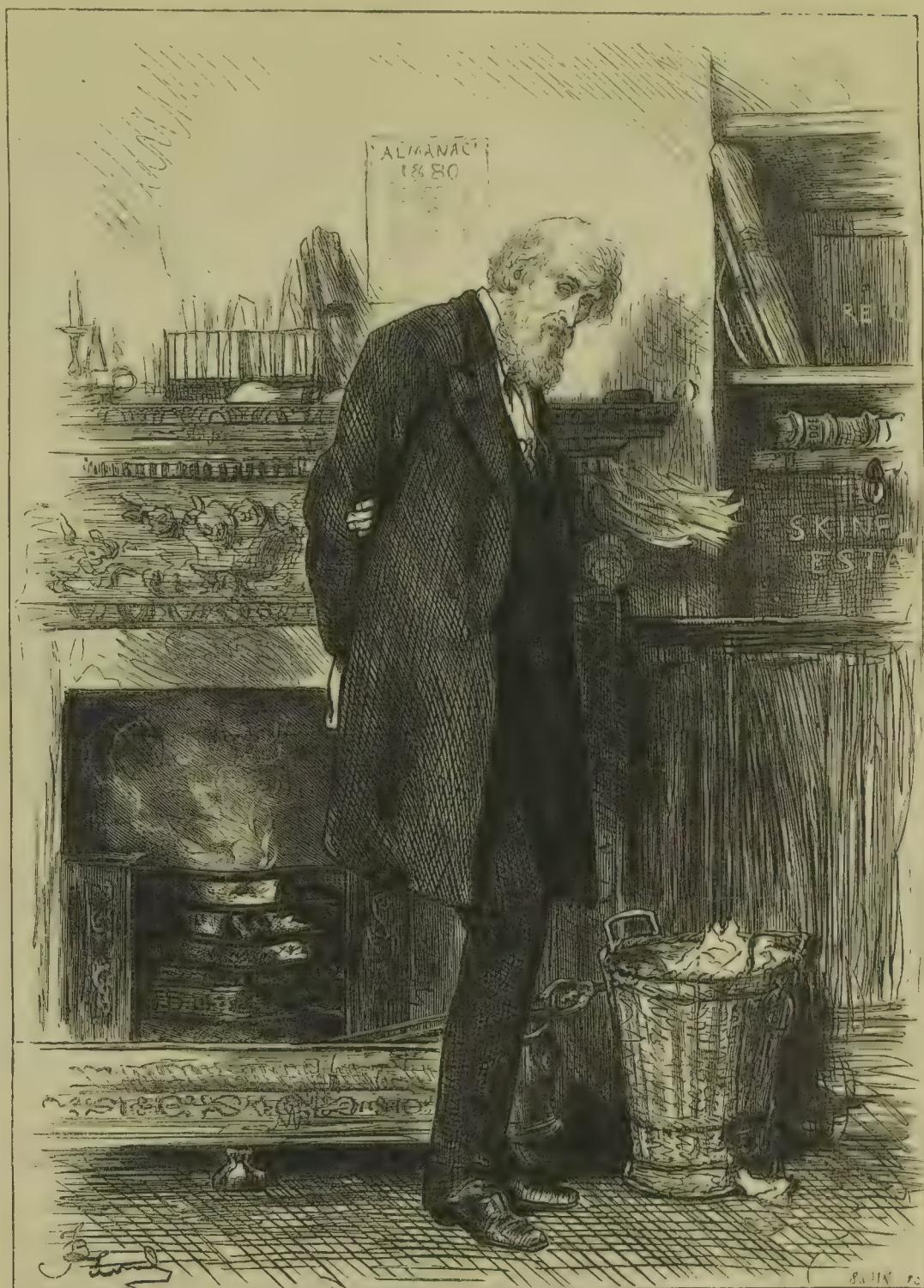
PEOPLE I HAVE MET.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "THAT ARTFUL VICAR."

No. III.—THE FAMILY SOLICITOR.

In a large bare room on the first floor of a shabby old house in New-square, Lincoln's-inn, is passed most of the daylight which falls to the share of Mr. Harry Makepeace Vellumson, who is a prince among conveyancers. He was not born with a gold spoon in his mouth, and worked very hard before he rose to the pleasant heights of his profession. There are marks of obstinate labour and patient thought on every line of his somewhat delicate face, and in the deep furrows which long years of care and struggle with adverse circumstances have ploughed across his massive forehead. Now he takes things easily. Business pours in upon him like a perpetual stream of milk and honey; but he only takes the cream of it, leaving the churning, potting, and all the petty bother to his clerks, and to his partners, who are also convenient helps. A stately, kind old gentleman, with quite a sufficient sense of his own importance, is Mr. Vellumson. His voice is extremely agreeable, his manners have a punctilious courtesy, which at once tells an observer that his clients are among the salt of the earth. There is a notable dignity in his tall spare figure, bent, not ungracefully—in the steadfast look of his dim blue eye, and white beard. It might be better, perhaps, if he did not take snuff, and if his clothes did not look as though he slept in them. The fact is that, although this chief of the eminent firm of Vellumson, Deodand, Heriot, and Vassal has at least half a million sterling placed, according to Lord Thurlow's advice, in the elegant simplicity of the Three per Cents, and is a member both of the Carlton Club and of the Athenaeum, being at heart a fine gentleman, he never had a valet in the whole course of his life. He has lived for six-and-thirty years on the basement floor of the same house where his office is situated, and a charwoman "does for him," as her mother did before her. Why should he change his lodging? He is very little there, and any place is good enough to sleep in, he argues, though he and his physician differ in opinion on that point. For the rest, he is a temperate man, who takes a considerable quantity of exercise, keeps his mind well occupied, has abundant rest, and is never ill. Many of the very best houses in London are open to him. He dines quietly with Lord Richlands whenever that cosy nobleman is thinking of adding to his estates. Mrs. Smoothly, the opulent widow, discusses all the alterations of her will with him over truly admirable madeira, capons, and pastry. She makes a pudding for him on these occasions with her own plump hands, because he once praised it. Henry Trimmer, the king of the Court wits; Dr. Goodman, the famous physician; Lord Probate; C. J., Bishop Bloomer, the tremendous pamphleteer; and Sir John Mellow, the Astrologer Royal, who is wise in the ways and management of bees, meet together every Saturday at a beefsteak dinner, which comprises every delicacy of the season. It is refreshing to hear their simple and homely talk when these old friends get together in the winter evenings. The opponents they have had to face and fight with all day would marvel at every one of them.

So it is hardly going too far to say that Mr. Vellumson knows everybody, more or less, who is worth knowing, and has a general acquaintance with the world so extensive as to qualify him admirably for an adviser in difficult cases. The proudest men or women in the kingdom might safely leave



THE FAMILY SOLICITOR.



"Mr. Vellumson, however, chanced to meet the Duke travelling up to town in a railway-carriage soon afterwards, and they had some conversation which nobody heard, after which his Grace went on his way with a face quite livid."

their honour in his hands, assured that he would place them before the world in a proper light: or he would recommend them to consult somebody else. He will not touch either a shady case or a queer client.

"Tell me everything, and I will advise you," is the form of address he adopts to a disingenuous person who consults him with half a story, cutting all rhodomontade and shuffling quite short. Then he takes a huge pinch of rappee, and blandly awaits the result. He has observed that attempts to extort money give the grandees who take counsel from him most trouble. Some rogue has found out a family secret and is determined to turn it into money, or has done so till the tax has become intolerable: and Mr. or Mrs. Croesus, in danger of being utterly ruined, has rushed to him in despair for relief. Then the cruel truth has to come out to him also. Alderman Worthington, who has twice passed the chair, had to confess something so startling that he fell down in a fit before the grievous tale was done. The Lady Ermine Wintersnow, Lord Zero's daughter, visited him in such ghastly anguish that when she had unburdened her tortured heart she tried to kill herself. It was all hushed up. The Alderman is now one of the Governors of the Bank of England, and a Baronet. He dozes on the magisterial bench in plenary worship, free from all alarms. The Lady Ermine married the eldest of her six daughters but a month ago, and Mr. Vellumson drew the settlements. She has been the Right Hon. Countess of Plum-bunenough these last twenty years.

Mr. Vellumson knows all about sharp practice in decorous ways. He will not resort to it himself. His firm never touch criminal business, but Fifay and Latitat, of Scaly-place, are terribly active when instructed by the great firm of Lincoln's-inn. It would be a dauntless rogue, indeed, who could venture to confront them. There are so many ways of scaring a rascal, and Latitats know them all. So does Casay, their chief clerk for criminal business.

On ordinary occasions Mr. Vellumson's firm adhere strictly to the nicest forms of professional etiquette. Their cases very seldom go into the law courts. They end by compromises and amicable settlements when they do end, but these eminent lawyers are never in a hurry. A few words from Mr. Vellumson personally to any other solicitor of his own standing will always stop active proceedings on both sides, save such as are taken by common consent. Both gentlemen then know perfectly well what they mean to do, and their clients have to submit. It is far better to employ Mr. Vellumson than a sharp attorney; and no legal black sheep ever attempts to butt at his clients. He can do really grand things for an honest man in trouble. He will accomplish wonders in the way of delay. Even usurers consider his name a sort of implied guarantee for ultimate settlement, and shrink from using harsh measures in a case where he is concerned. Judges, too, and the lights of the law know that when his name is on a brief everything is fair and above board. His cheque would pass as current as a bank-note even with a sheriff's officer on a Saturday and after business hours, all usage to the contrary notwithstanding—a fact that saved the commission of "handsome Jim Foley," who was arrested just as his regiment was about to leave for India.

The only cases the great firm dislikes are official cases. "You see," Mr. Vellumson is wont to remark to any new victim of irresponsible power who consults him, "we may have an excellent cause; but we have no tribunal." Then, after taking a prolonged pinch of snuff, and using a bandana hand-kerchief to mitigate an explosion, which only takes place when he is moved to voiceless anger, "I would rather that a son of mine broke stones upon the road than that he entered the public service in the present state of the law. Neither his fortune nor his character is ever safe there, for he may be condemned to utter ruin without a trial."

Mr. Vellumson has nothing of an ordinary attorney about him; and often feels a true friendship for his clients. When this happens he talks poetry to them rather than law, and delights in reciting whole passages from Wordsworth, who was his friend. His elocution is beautiful; he would have made a remarkable orator; and, after whiling away hour after hour in learned talk he will gradually give modest glimpses of his own inner life, telling how he secretly delights in gardening, and has a niece who was his dead sister's child, and will be his heiress, though she does not know it, but now blossoms like a heath flower at a cottage in Cumberland. Thus client and solicitor become fast friends, and he had advised generation after generation of fine old English households, being considered almost as one of themselves. He is welcomed in a hundred halls and manor houses. He arranges dowers and settlements so as to conciliate the interests of expectants with those of possessors. He knows the real amount of poor Lady Lackland's slender jointure, and exactly what will be left to Lord Toplofty when he has reduced his tenants' rents thirty per cent. Mr. Hunckx, too, of Lostwithiel, has confessed to him that the Ruby-Wheel is but vanity and vexation of spirit, so that sixty years of curmudgeon tricks have disappeared into a little worthless machinery, which is all that remains of his great mining property. "Tis a bad business; but then sweet Lucy Wyvill, the Cornish heiress, who is in love with her cousin, Mr. Hunckx's son, has consulted him as to how she can come to her uncle's rescue—"without his knowing it," she adds in a pretty womanly way. So Mr. Vellumson can give even the ruined miser some comfort, and before he returns to town will try to make two lovers happy, though it is not much in the ordinary practice of solicitors. He will do all this, and more even, during his holidays, or when on a chance visit to the country; but he will not get Lord Tantivy, the local magnate, out of his debts for ten shillings in the pound, though that shrewd, magniloquent peer strongly urged him to do so, having got wind of an unexpected reversion being about to fall in to him, and being desirous to begin life's game anew on the strength of it. Far different was the case of Mrs. Freshfield, who caught him while he was fishing one autumn day at Windermere. She was just about to have the bed sold from under her for one of the late Duke of Scampington's acceptances which her deceased husband had unfortunately endorsed, and his present Grace naturally refused to pay a penny in the first instance. Mr. Vellumson, however, chanced to meet the Duke travelling up to town in a railway-carriage soon afterwards, and they had some conversation which nobody heard, after which his Grace went on his way with a face quite livid. Then Widow Freshfield's furniture was saved, Mr. Vellumson merely remarking that "he had paid his father's debts, and he thought that the Duke should do likewise, or give up the title he had inherited, with the obligations belonging to it." He said this in his usual measured and highbred tones; but one or two well-informed persons added significantly, "Just so," and remembered that there was a claimant to the Scampington estates, who might be rather difficult to deal with, should the great firm of Vellumson, Heriot, Deodand, and Vassall take up his cause; for they always employed Sir Job Daniels, whose word was law in Equity. "Hush!" said Mr. Vellumson, with a quiet smile, when his friends discoursed in this way, "The great art of retaining power is *not* to use it." It would be surprising to find out how powerful Mr. Vellumson is, were it not that all real power in such a community as ours tends to get into the hands of lawyers.

He could foreclose mortgages, thereby bringing misery and disaster on some of the most illustrious families in the country. He could harass trustees and executors. He could press for charges on land and life annuities and cognovits, instead of waiting for convenient seasons. As it is, he holds all sorts of securities, which seem to lie fallow in his hands; but which might be used at any moment as screws and levers of amazing force. His costs are, indeed, an item in his receipts, and the younger partners look eagerly to them to keep up their broughams and villas; Mr. Vellumson does not. He has many other sources of income. He is trustee of numerous estates, to which the legal ownership is not decided. He holds funds belonging to other trustees and executors in the same position. He is solicitor for the representatives of persons who have died intestate, and immense sums of money are confided to his care, by reason of his high character. Most of it pays the usual legal toll of 5 per cent before it passes out of his hands, and, besides, there is the interest which his bankers allow in the ordinary course of business, on his deposit account, which is enormous. He does not speak of these things, nor is there any reason why he should do so; but it is a treat to see the cheques he will draw for any public or private object which appeals to his love of his profession, to his patriotism, or to his heart, which is very warm and kindly towards all who have once found the way to it.

THE MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

The building erected at Melbourne, the capital of the Australian province of Victoria, for the International Exhibition to be held this year, is now approaching its completion. The late Governor of Victoria, Sir George Bowen, laid the foundation-stone on Feb. 11 last year. We take the following description of the building from the *Melbourne Argus*:

"The building designed to contain the exhibits will be an important addition to the architecture of Melbourne. The site, in the Carlton Gardens, is an excellent one, and will show off the structure to advantage, and as, after the great show of next year, the building will be retained as a permanent exhibition building, the fabric will probably for many years be reckoned as one of the most striking ornaments of Melbourne. The design is the work of Messrs. Reed and Barnes, the architects of many of our leading city structures. The salient features of the building (which will be the largest Melbourne has yet known) will be, first, a dome higher than the highest spire in the city, flanked by a number of smaller towers of pavilion shape; and, secondly, a variety of ornamental details, mostly in such high relief as must entirely prevent the dead-wall effect but too frequently conveyed under similar circumstances. The building, excluding the temporary annexes for machinery, &c., is cruciform, consisting of a nave 500 ft. long, running from east to west, and cut through its centre by a transept 270 ft. deep, the ends of which are north and south. This transept is the leading feature of the fabric. At its south end is the chief portal—a tall arch 40 ft. wide and 60 ft. high, deeply recessed, and reached by a flight of broad stone steps. On each side are square towers 105 ft. high, adorned by picturesquely-shaped and well-grouped windows, together with Ionic pilasters and enriched panels. The north end of the transept is arranged on almost precisely the same pattern. Some 50 ft. behind the portico, and at the point where the transept intersects the nave, rises the dome, octagonal in form, and reaching the height of 223 ft., being about 130 ft. above the main roof. As the dome rears itself above the main roof it is surrounded by columns, dividing groups of windows, and just above that point the tapering gradually begins. At its base the central tower is 100 ft. square, but as its octagonal shape becomes defined the diameter is contracted to 60 ft. The rest of the building is in fine keeping with its main features and with the nature of its design, which may be characterised as Italian Renaissance. At each side of the central tower runs the nave, which from end to end measures, as we have already stated, fully 500 ft. The exterior walls are, however, not those of the nave, but of the courts which are built alongside them—an arrangement which accounts for the way in which the windows are designed. The architects are, indeed, well deserving of credit for the fact that they have wholly dispensed with skylights as unsuited to the climate, and always more or less actively productive of inconvenience to everyone beneath them. Thus the courts are lighted through the exterior walls, the lower by windows intersected by columns, the upper by a clerestory of the same pattern in small just beneath the parapet. The roof of the nave, rising above the parapet, affords room for the clerestory, by which the great space below is lighted. In this way the sun's glare is excluded, and a capital means of ventilation afforded. To intercept further heating rays of sunshine and also get rid of everything in the shape of dead-wall effect, there is between each window of the main building a species of buttress standing out a few feet. Finally, the exterior of the building may be said to be completed, and its outline rendered most agreeably impressive, by a pavilion tower, 80 ft. high, at each corner. The interior, as it will strike the visitor, may be briefly described. Entering the building by its south and chief portal, he will at once face the noble transept, 70 ft. high, 60 ft. broad in the clear, and, besides, flanked with side galleries, covering an additional space of 20 ft. wide. He passes on some 30 ft. further, and then finds himself beneath the open dome, and at a point from which branch not only the 270-ft. long transept, running north and south, but the nobler and grander nave, the dimensions of which are truly vast. It is 500 ft. long, 70 ft. high, and, with the galleries, which correspond with those already described, fully 100 ft. wide. The vistas thus afforded will constitute to those who have never seen one of the great exhibition buildings of the world a perfectly unprecedented sight. Between the nave and the outer walls on each side are several courts, each 200 ft. long and 30 ft. wide. They will be found admirably adapted for the display of certain classes of goods; and the upper courts, which correspond, of course, with the galleries inside the nave, are specially suited for the exhibition of pictures or sculpture. The material of the building is brick, stuccoed. The roof will be of iron, or wood and iron."

At Geneva an international exhibition of clocks and watches, and of all machines, implements, and utensils relating to clockmaking, will be held during May and June next.

In 1877 Mr. Hownam went with his uncle to Redcar, and while there the latter gave him a packet, which was labelled, "Not to be opened until I call for it myself and explain to you if I get better." It was deposited in a bank at Coldstream, and after the old man's death, in 1878, was found to contain two promissory notes for £500, each in favour of Hownam. But the deceased left all his property to his niece, and she proceeded against the younger Hownam in Chancery for the return of the notes. Vice-Chancellor Malins decided on Tuesday that the notes were a part of the testator's estate at his death, and must be given up.

PARLIAMENT. LORDS.

Ambitious Commoners aspiring to enter the sacred circle of the Peerage may find cause for wonderment in the alacrity where-with noble Lords hasten to relieve themselves of their brilliant scarlet robes of state the moment any ceremonial is over. The rich colour, flashing gems, and glittering pageantry, which lend to the opening of Parliament by the Queen in person a magnetic power of attraction, vanished like a dream; and the House of Lords dropped into muti with habitual readiness a very few hours after the departure of the Royal procession on the afternoon of the 5th inst.

The Earl of Beaconsfield appeared paler and thinner in face than usual when he took his accustomed seat between the Duke of Richmond and Lord Cranbrook. Some interest may well have been taken by the Prime Minister in the measured and stately entrance of the noble Earl who had applied the scornful epithet of "Gunpowder and Glory business" to the foreign policy of the Government from which he seceded. Notwithstanding his flirtation or growing affection for the Liberal party outside Parliament, Lord Derby, however, retained his neutral position within the Chamber of Peers, and comfortably resumed his corner seat on the cross-bench, from which he could, had he so wished, rake his late colleagues with impunity. Threatened thus on their right flank, and opposed in front by a compact phalanx, including the Duke of Argyll, Earl Granville, Lord Selborne, and the Earl of Northbrook, the Ministers present may possibly have found comfort in the custom which ordained that two noble Lords attached to their Party should have precedence in moving and seconding the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

Her Majesty's Speech was, accordingly, paraphrased with some point by the Earl of Onslow, and was amplified at such an inordinate length by the Earl of Rosse that the Heir Apparent (seated on the cross-bench with the Duke of Edinburgh and the Earl of Derby) was observed to tap his leg impatiently with his stick, while a noble Earl mid-nodded below the prolix speaker; and up in the balcony to the left of the Throne indications of boredom were not lacking in the wandering gaze of the Princess of Wales and the Princess of the Netherlands. Yet would it be ungracious not to acknowledge that the noble Earl erred, if he did err, on the side of diffuseness from an evident desire to perform his duty conscientiously, particularly with regard to the state of Ireland, which he sought to show might be materially improved by the reclamation of waste lands and by increasing as much as possible the productiveness of the soil.

Earl Granville had no difficulty in selecting from what may be termed the courtier's complete vocabulary acceptable compliments to bestow on Lord Onslow and Lord Rosse. Nor was polite "chaff" wanting. Small by degrees and beautifully less, he intimated, had the number of domestic measures introduced by the Ministry become. Of Ministers who had dealt in outdoor attacks on the Opposition, the Marquis of Salisbury (whose absence through illness was courteously regretted) came in for a passing word in reference to his seeming Protectionist speech before the Manchester Chamber of Commerce; and Lord Bury was twitted with dexterity for opposing, in a speech at Nottingham, the alteration permitted by the late Government in the Black Sea Treaty. "But these tremendous criticisms of the acts of individuals [said Earl Granville with effect] fall very lightly when we remember that the noble Lord during the whole of that Administration was a most able and warm supporter of it." The noble Earl was glad to see the paragraph in the Queen's Speech having reference to the land laws, which he thought required simplifying. In Ireland there was no doubt "a thorough reform of the local government" ought to be aimed at. The use of violent language by Mr. Parnell and his co-agitators was at the same time deprecated. A hope was expressed that the Government would adopt adequate means to relieve existing distress; and the land reforms proposed by Mr. Bright were pointed to as worthy serious consideration. Harking back then to the Berlin Treaty, Earl Granville endeavoured to minimise the good secured by her Majesty's plenipotentiaries, denied that the Government had prevented Russia from entering Constantinople, and pungently remarked:—"The cession of Bessarabia, the fortress of Kars, the port of Batoum, a large portion of Asia Minor, and a large pecuniary indemnity hanging over Turkey—every one of these points was confirmed by the Berlin Treaty." The Anglo-Turkish Convention was then stigmatised as "the most indefensible diplomatic agreement which has ever been entered into in modern times." Complaint was made that the Porte had not fulfilled its duties towards Montenegro and Greece. Then fresh censure was applied to the Government for speaking with two voices regarding the war in South Africa; for allowing their decisions to be over-ridden by a subordinate official abroad; and information respecting the Confederation and the Boers was asked for. Turning to Afghanistan, he lamented that the bitter lesson taught by the Cabul disaster forty years ago had been thrown away on the Ministry. What would be the policy of the Government in that disaffected country now? Finally, the noble Earl's exceedingly able speech was brought to a close with a declaration that a "calm, firm, and conciliatory" bearing to foreign Powers was far preferable to a foreign policy "conducted on a system of jerks and surprises."

Lord Beaconsfield began his reply in a Disraelian vein of banter, which elicited laughter and cheers; and contented himself mainly with concisely answering the questions put by Earl Granville. To begin with, however, it was hardly worth while reverting to the Berlin Treaty, inasmuch as that agreement had received the sanction of their Lordships. Looking forward to a satisfactory settlement of the questions affecting Montenegro and Greece, the noble Earl proceeded to say that the papers to be produced would show what had been done with respect to the boundaries of Eastern Roumelia, and regarding Central Asia. In South Africa peace had been concluded; and Sir Bartle Frere telegraphed home on Jan. 27 that "there would be a representative union of Natal, the Transvaal, Griqualand, and Kaffir Land, the total number of representatives being fifteen, with a governor." In Afghanistan "our object was to obtain and adequate and powerful frontier, and though a disaster had occurred in Afghanistan, it has been carried into effect by a brilliant military success." The Treaty of Gundamuk was the seal of the Ministerial policy. No annexation was desired. All the Government wished was to see Afghanistan ruled by a chief chosen by the Afghans. He refused to believe there was any foundation for the alleged cruelties practised by her Majesty's troops in Afghanistan, and thought "the whole business" would "turn out like other atrocities, serve its purpose, and be stigmatised and forgotten." The Act to be introduced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to sanction the loan of £500,000 granted by Government in mitigation of the distress in Ireland was next referred to; and Earl Granville's concession respecting local self-government in Ireland was adversely criticised, and dismissed with the comment that it would be as logical to say the people of York

might transact their local business, "and so you will go on until you have no Parliament at all." Laughter greeted this characteristic sally, and Ministerial cheers followed the concluding sentence directed against Lord Ramsay's chance at the Liverpool election, this carefully rounded period declaring that Home Rule meant nothing else than "the dismemberment of the United Kingdom," and that "those who favour such a policy are false to their Sovereign and their country."

It needed an orator less accustomed to speak at a white heat than the Duke of Argyll to grapple with the Prime Minister in debate. His Grace confined himself to an outspoken denunciation of every phase of Ministerial action in Afghanistan, and castigated Lord Lytton with such vigour that the Duke of Northumberland and the Earl of Hardwicke (the latter weaning himself for the nonce from the kennels of her Majesty's buck-hounds) protested against the lashing of the Viceroy; and Lord Cranbrook warmly defended the Governor-General from the attack to which he had been subjected, affirming that Lord Lytton had loyally obeyed the wishes of the Home Government. The Secretary for India as strongly exculpated General Roberts from the charges of cruelty brought against him; but the noble Viscount intimated his disapproval of Sir Henry Rawlinson's writing an article in the *Nineteenth Century* on the Afghan Question when he was a member of the Council of India.

The Address was then agreed to; and their Lordships had adjourned before half-past nine o'clock.

The Lord Chancellor took his seat on the woolsack at the usual hour on the second day of the Session; but the House, wearied by the labours of the previous evening, only sat for twenty minutes. Following the earlier example set them by the Duke of Portland, Lord Chelmsford, Lord Lawrence, and Lord St. Vincent, there approached the table the Earl of Fife and the Earl of Ashburnham to take the oaths and sign the roll of peers. True to his maternal care for labourers in various walks of life, Earl Delawarr then gave notice of his bill regarding employers' liability for accidents happening to their workmen (which measure was read a first time on Tuesday); and the Duke of Richmond made amends for his silence on the opening night by informing the Marquis of Ripon that the Medical Bill would be reintroduced in the Lower House.

Monday saw the Duke of Argyll unlike his native Caledonia, stern and wild. His Grace had a point to make; and neatly he made it. It appeared that there was much rejoicing in the Ministerial ranks because of Lord George Hamilton's making public in Midlothian the fact that a minute of a telegram to Shere Ali had been discovered in the India Office indorsed "Empress of India" in the Duke of Argyll's handwriting. The noble Duke explained how that faithfully-attached follower of the Ministry in the Lower House, Sir H. Drummond-Wolff, had received confirmation of the fact from Mr. Stanhope. But his Grace did not disavow the soft impeachment. On the contrary, he stated that he never entertained the strong objections felt by his colleagues against her Majesty's assumption of the Imperial title; nor had he spoken against it. Opposition cheers rewarded the noble Duke for his simple exposure of this electioneering mare's-nest. Whereupon the Duke of Argyll was encouraged to rise again in order to move for copies of Shere Ali's correspondence with Russia.

The Earl of Kimberley succeeded his Grace, and afforded Earl Cadogan a fresh opportunity of showing by his clear and conciliatory explanation that the disarming of the Basutos was proceeding peacefully, and that the Under-Secretary for the Colonies begins the Session with his rare talent for explicit statement unimpaired.

The Lord Chancellor then gave practical proof that the Government have no idea of resigning their convenient custom of relieving themselves of trouble by handing over intricate matters to Select Committees. Such was the course the noble Earl suggested should be adopted with regard to the Employers' Liability Bill, which was read the first time, as Earl Granville saw no objection to this proceeding.

Earl Beauchamp, to whom had been intrusted the congenial duty of conveying their Lordships' loyal Address to her Majesty in the Isle of Wight, on Tuesday rose and read the following gracious reply of the Queen:—

I thank you sincerely for your loyal Address. I am confident that I can always rely upon your cordial co-operation and assistance in all measures which I may deem necessary for the safety of my Empire and for the promotion of prosperity and concord among all classes of my people.

The continued absence of the Foreign Secretary rendered it necessary for the Earl of Beaconsfield to reply to an important question put by Earl Granville. The Prime Minister said there was no foundation whatever for the statement that the Government had relieved Persia from her treaty engagements "not to enter Herat." Communications had been made to Persia with regard to our north-west frontier; but it would not be in the interests of the public service to lay the correspondence on the table before the business is concluded.

Their Lordships sat for thirty-five minutes on Tuesday, the last business being the sanction of a motion beamingly made by Earl Fortescue for a return as to the respective costs of recent elections to the School Boards and the Boards of Guardians.

COMMONS.

The Irish members who follow, with more or less fidelity, the Parliamentary leadership of Mr. Shaw succeeded in postponing for four nights the agreement to the Address. But the time can scarcely be said to have been lost, for the delay has enabled the House to receive ample information as to the extent of the distress in Ireland, and the adequateness of the means devised by the Government for its relief.

It is now so generally known that Colonel Moray acquitted himself exceptionally well in moving the Address, and that Mr. J. P. Corry introduced unwonted vivacity into what is usually deemed the perfunctory task of seconding the motion, that their utterances need not be further referred to. Time might have been saved, it is now clear, if Mr. Shaw had therupon been allowed to move his amendment forthwith. But the Marquis of Hartington claimed and obtained precedence. The noble Lord began with a briskness of delivery that led to the hope that his "rhetorical campaign" in Newcastle and Manchester had imparted vigour to his elocutionary style. But, ere his Lordship had got half way through his replica of Earl Granville's hostile review of the foreign policy of the Ministry (a review varied by some original and pungent criticism, it must be allowed), he dropped, unfortunately, into his old habit of humdrum speech, and halting delivery of interminable sentences. The concluding portion of his speech was devoted to Ireland. He hoped the Government had taken commensurate steps for the relief of the distress; deplored the anti-rent agitation; and trusted that the laws that called for reform in Ireland would be speedily dealt with. The Leader of the Opposition ended by strongly deprecating the determination of the Ministry to prolong Parliament "to the very verge of its possible existence."

Pugnacious cheerfulness characterised Sir Stafford Northcote's opening words approving Mr. Corry's attack on the

noble Lord; and throughout the Chancellor of the Exchequer's speech there ran a vein of confidence that asserted everything had been done for the best by the best possible of Governments in Europe, in Turkey, in Africa, in Afghanistan. Ireland had commanded their earnest attention; they had not been niggard of measures of relief; but, nevertheless, the right hon. Baronet finished by availing himself of the shelter of the Duchess of Marlborough's jupon, and by praising her Grace's benevolence.

A multitude of speakers, nearly all on the Opposition side, rose to point out objection after objection to the course adopted by the Government. But we can only remark now that Sir Charles Dilke made good the high position he has obtained in the ranks of skillful debaters by his discriminating and independent analysis of Ministerial shortcomings; that Mr. Jenkins exhibited much critical acumen in his comments on the Queen's Speech; that Mr. Cross informed Mr. Fawcett that he hoped shortly to be able to introduce a bill with regard to the Water Supply of London; and that Mr. Shaw's motion for the adjournment, although opposed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, was warmly supported by the Irish members, and was successful after one division, in which the Government had a majority of 112—174 to 62.

On the House reassembling on the Friday, a ceremonial importance was given to the Irish prayer for adequate help and reforms by the appearance of Mr. E. Dwyer Gray, the Lord Mayor of Dublin, attired in his robes of office, to present a petition framed in the same spirit as Mr. Shaw's amendment. Mr. Gray presented this petition on behalf of himself and the Dublin Common Council; and it undoubtedly lent weight to the amendment to the Address, which was thus worded:—

That this House profoundly regrets that her Majesty's Government, although in possession of timely warning and information, have not taken adequate steps to alleviate sufficiently the severe distress now existing in Ireland, and is of opinion that in order to avert the horrors of famine over a wide area of that country the most vigorous measures are necessary; and that this House is further of opinion that it is essential to the peace and prosperity of Ireland to legislate at once in a comprehensive manner on those questions which affect the tenure of land in Ireland, the neglect of which by Parliament has been the true cause of the constantly recurring disaffection and distress in Ireland.

Albeit Mr. Shaw was precluded from moving this resolution himself, and the duty devolved upon Mr. Redmond, the hon. member for Cork rose soon to complain with earnestness that the Government, although repeatedly warned by Irish members, Poor Law Unions, and the clergy of the extent of the misery, had disregarded all warnings, and had not thought fit to institute the suggested reproductive public works that would have given bread to the distressed, nor had they advanced loans to tenants to enable them to drain "the thousands of acres of improvable land in Ireland." Closing with an appeal for the repeal of unjust laws, and for a system of land tenure which would make the south of Ireland as prosperous as the north of Ireland, Mr. Shaw was cordially cheered by the Irish Home-Rule members.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer claimed that it was the anxious desire of the Government to introduce the Bill in reference to the distress that led to his objecting to the adjournment on the previous evening. Such subjects as "the tenure and distribution of land" were beside the question, he argued; and in the course of his comprehensive speech strenuously defended the Lord Lieutenant and Chief Secretary, and defined the Ministerial measure as one which would meet the difficulty of the failure of the potato crop and the fuel harvest by empowering unions to administer food and fuel as outdoor relief, by advancing loans on easy terms to landlords for the purpose of employing labourers, and by furthermore instituting a "system of extraordinary presentment sessions."

The debate was spread over the rest of the Friday evening, when The O'Donoghue resumed his position as an Irish Leader by an uncompromising attack on the Government for their "utter want of capacity;" and Mr. Plunket caused a lively diversion in the Home-Rule ranks by his fluent denunciation of Mr. Parnell's agitation, the cudgels in defence of the hon. member for Meath being wielded with equal ability, however, by Mr. A. M. Sullivan, compared with whose fervid declamation Mr. Lowther's halting delivery seemed drier than ever. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, when the debate had been adjourned, explained that the moneys to be borrowed for the bill would come from the funds of the Irish Church Commission.

Mr. Mitchell-Henry, who resumed the debate on Monday, was in favour of the Government boldly voting ten or fifteen millions for the making of roads and railways in Ireland. Mr. Forster's minute and useful examination of the steps taken by the Government called forth an able defence from Mr. W. H. Smith; and Lord Hartington effectively closed the night's debate by adopting a neutral or intermediate tone, winding up with a citation of Lord Beaconsfield's appointment of a Conservative Home Ruler, Mr. King-Harman, to a Lord Lieutenant as the best answer to the Prime Minister's well-rounded sentence in relation to the noble Lord's connection with Home Rule.

To Mr. Chamberlain, who, if still rather drily unsympathetic in manner, is yet acceptably logical in his neat harangues, was it left to be the first to state on Tuesday his reasons for voting with the amendment, which Sir W. Barttelot, on the other hand, censured for its party spirit. When Mr. Mundella, Mr. Rylands, Mr. Jacob Bright, and other hon. members had spoken, and been replied to by Mr. Cross on behalf of the Ministry, the division took place, and gave the Government a majority of 150—216 against 66. The Address was then agreed to; and Major Nolan's bill concerning the potato crop met with qualified support from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who also sanctioned the appointment of a Committee on the same subject, moved for by Major Nolan.

Ash Wednesday afternoon was spent in still another debate on the Queen's Speech, the bringing up of the report eliciting from Mr. Fawcett an amendment to the effect that the House regretted that no assurance had been made that the Imperial war in Afghanistan would not be paid for out of the Indian revenues. Sir William Harcourt created an impression by reading from a speech of Mr. Disraeli in 1842 antagonistic to the first Afghan War. The amendment was eventually withdrawn upon Sir Stafford Northcote's undertaking, at the suggestion of Mr. Forster, that opportunity for debating the subject should be given before the introduction of the Indian Budget. A further amendment, couched in the flowery language of Cogers' Hall, and censuring the Ministry strongly for their conduct to Ireland, was then introduced by Mr. O'Donnell, who talked himself out with Celtic loquacity.

The Irish Master of the Rolls on Monday decided the case of W. Maguire v. the Earl of Longford, which dealt with the recent finding of 836 sovereigns in a house in Rutland-square, Dublin. The order of the Court was that Colonel Palliser, Miss Cookson, and the Crown having withdrawn all claim, Mr. Maguire do deliver over the book and its contents to Lord Longford, and that his Lordship pay the costs of Colonel Palliser, Mr. Maguire, and the Attorney-General.

TRICKS OF TRADE.

If we are a nation of traders, then all trades should have an interest for us; and if all trades, then all the tricks which have become associated with each trade. For every business of life has its clever knacks, its cunning dodges; and the man really knowing in his business is cognisant alike of those he should in honour avoid, and of those which it is a mere proof of dexterity, of manual or mental skill, to practise. Bricklayers and poets, dairymen and doctors, artists, soldiers, linendrapers—all these possess, besides the straightforward knowledge with which we credit them, numberless devices whose object is to show things rather differently than they would appear if displayed by an unskilled workman.

Some of these devices are, of course, sheer knavery. That a potte of strawberries should contain at top only fine, at bottom only wretched fruit, is manifestly unfair; while that what pretends to be a pound should be really—owing to false weights—only fourteen ounces, does not seem honest. But all tricks of trade are not so tricky as these: some are absolutely to be praised, not blamed—as the picturesque display of goods in a shop-window gives to each thing an added value as part of an artistic whole.

And the mention of shop-windows reminds us of a middle

class of tricks which, like Rob Roy, are not good enough to bless, while we really cannot see any great reason for banning them. There is a good deal of harmless dishonesty in the world, which, like certain affectations, causes rather a smile of pity than that much overrated instrument of correction, a frown. When Mr. Bob Sawyer and Mr. Benjamin Allen club together their scanty resources and purchase a stock of drugs wherewith to alleviate the distresses of their fellow-townsmen, one takes it quite for granted that not all those little drawers with glass knobs are filled "with balsams and with purgatives"—that the *pull. rhei, ipeac.* and their comrades who look down on us so learnedly have very often rather a name than a local habitation. It does not matter; it does no one any harm; and it very likely does good to many patients by increasing their stock of faith—far the most potent drug in the pharmacopæia.

Whether there can be any like virtue in "dummy" butter-tubs, I know not; but one's heart goes out towards the worthy buttermen of "Our Boys," Mr. Perkyn Middlewick—whose name has reached Australia and has grown a household word in the Bush—when that genial being tells us how "when he first started business he had the finest stock in Lambeth—to look at; but they was all sham. The front tubs was butter, and the rest dummies."

And, speaking of the famous Middlewick, what is it but a trick of trade—a happy device of the dramatist's art—which concludes his story with the delighted recognition of a brother of his craft? Those who have seen "Our Boys"—the majority, may I not say, of English-speaking people—will remember the buttermen's last interview with Belinda, the unwashed "slavery," who had been good to his boy. "Have you got a young man?" he asks her; and she replies, derisively, "And me two-and-twenty!" Then Middlewick asks what this implied young man is; and one tries for the moment to guess what the betrothed of a Borough slavey would be—whether she would stoop to the chimney-sweep, or eclipse her many rivals with the postman. But her answer is a delightful surprise—"He's a buttermen!" and one sympathises heartily with Middlewick's fervent "I'll buy him the best business in the Borough!"

The coincidence is true art, but it is a trick notwithstanding; and it was perhaps a trick thus to mention it and introduce the subject of which I wish to speak—the trade-tricks of literature and of art. Some of these are obvious and vulgar; some legitimate and even necessary; some, perhaps, like the butter-dummies, are harmless and not to be condemned.

There is in literature a trick very common. This is, to obtain a striking effect by making prose so rhythmical that it becomes verse. A certain balance, even a cadence, is welcome in majestic prose; and some feeling of rhythm is often hardly to be avoided—indeed it may be found in many noble passages. But the beauty of verse is one thing, the beauty of prose another: to introduce line after line of actual metre into prose is to destroy that freedom which should be its foremost charm. Dickens, in serious passages, carried this trick to an excess verging upon burlesque—the description of the funeral of Little Nell is an example. There he tells us how—

They carried her to one old nook,
Where she had many and many a time sat musing,
And laid their burden softly on the pavement.
The light streamed on it through the coloured window—
A window where the boughs
Of trees were ever rustling in the summer,
And where the birds sang sweetly all day long.

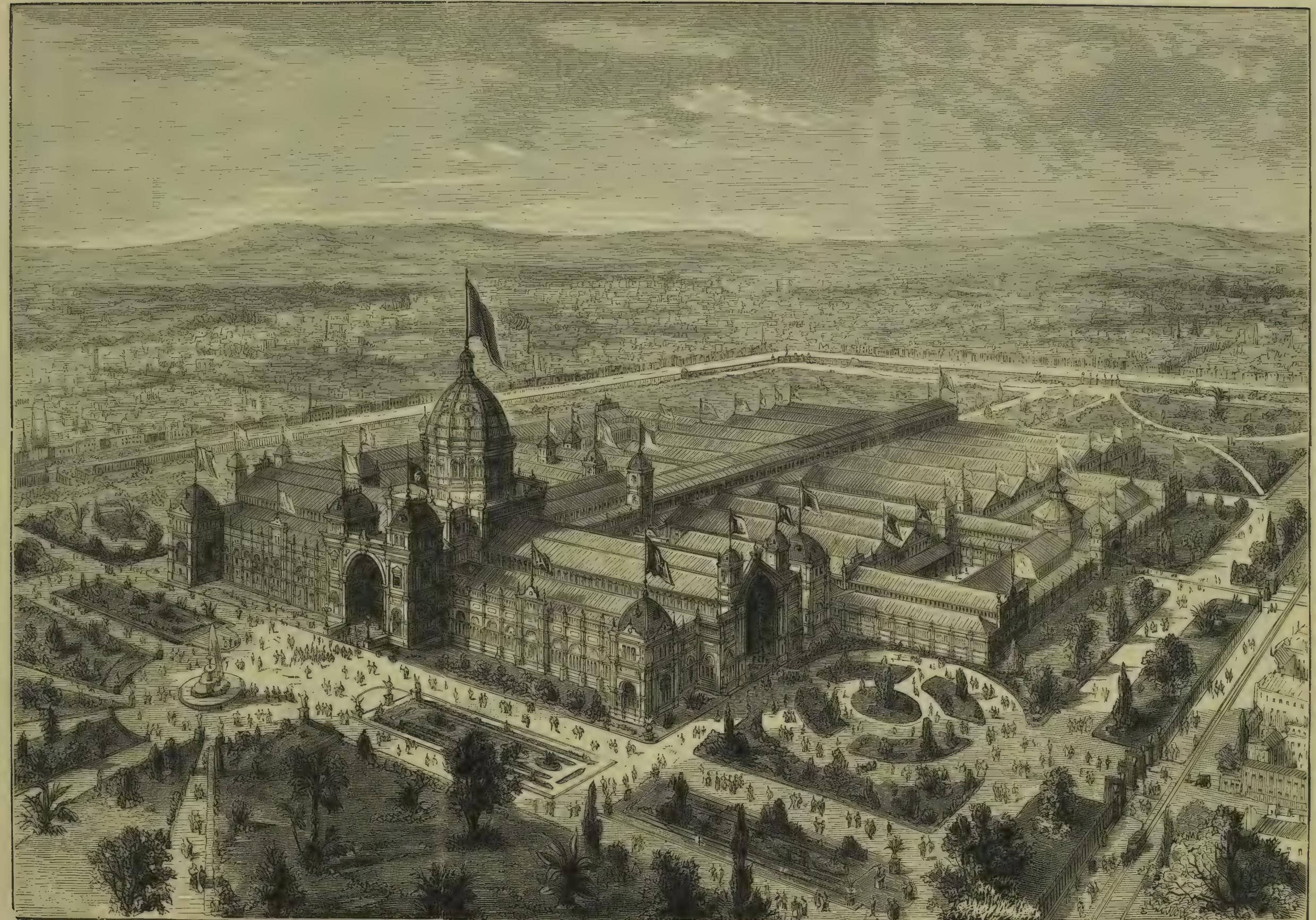
I have not altered a word of this, yet it is perfect blank verse—the hemistich, or broken line, is quite allowable—and the structure of the lines is even rather monotonous in its regularity. The whole description is rhythmical, and but a little further on in it we find some more lines equally exact:

Then when the dusk
Of evening had come on, and not a sound
Disturbed the sacred stillness of the place—
When the bright moon
Poured in her light on tomb and monument,
On pillar, wall, and arch, and most of all
(It seemed to them) upon her quiet grave.

Generations of painful readers have ferreted out trade-tricks innumerable in Shakespeare's work, which the playgoers to whom he appealed would never have detected. There was probably never an artist with a more perfect and minute knowledge of his craft than he; and the way in which he constantly, and (one cannot but assume) intentionally, takes in his audience, is delightful and even amusing.

A good instance of this was pointed out by Christopher North, who discovered it, and was amazingly bewildered at his own discovery. Shakespeare had to tell the long and rather complicated story of Iago's plot against Othello's peace of mind, its working out, and its result; yet he desired to carry along his hearers in a breathless whirl of excitement, like that of Othello himself, so that they, like him, might not discover its improbability. To effect this, with incredible ingenuity he so carries on his story that its whole action takes only some two or three days—that, indeed, Othello's first suspicion and its fatal result are not separated even by one night; and that yet, by a series of hints, whose inconsistency is apparent only to the critical reader, one is impressed with the idea that weeks, if not months, have passed since first the curtain rose on Desdemona's flight. Yet there are no improbabilities in the play—to the spectator, all is equally probable and impossible. The dignity of a long-sustained action, and the intense interest of a rapid and consecutive story, are combined in a manner otherwise impossible by this wonderful trick of the dramatist's trade—a trick repeated, by-the-way, in every one of Shakespeare's tragedies and histories, which, for the most part, condense a long reign into a few days, and yet leave no impression of unreality!

Beside this gigantic fraud all others fade; yet a thousand effects, say of the landscape-painter's art, give us its parallels—are untrue to actual nature in all but the one essential: the impression which, taken as a whole, they make on the spectator's eye. And these are all legitimate and good.



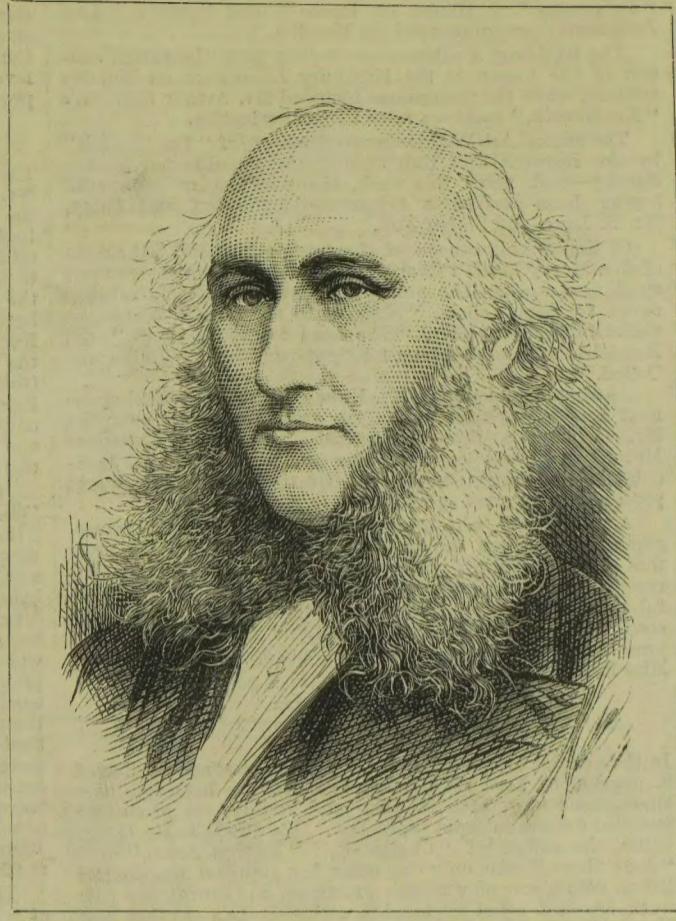
THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION BUILDING AT MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA.—SEE PAGE 162.

NEW M.P. FOR LIVERPOOL.

The polling at Liverpool yesterday week returned Mr. Edward Whitley by a majority of 2221 over Lord Ramsay. The successful candidate, who is in his fifty-fifth year, is a solicitor of that town. His father, the late Mr. John Whitley, was in the same profession there; but Mr. Edward Whitley in his youth was articled to the firm of Messrs. Lowndes, Robinson, and Bateson. Here he obtained an excellent training in the different branches of the legal profession, especially conveyancing and commercial law. After he served his articles he joined his father in business, and the firm was known as J. and E. Whitley and Thompson. On the death of Mr. J. Whitley and Mr. Thompson, Mr. E. Whitley was joined by Mr. Maddock, and since then the firm has been carried on under the style of Whitley and Maddock. For many years Mr. Whitley has taken an active part in Conservative politics. He entered the Council as one of the members for Everton Ward in 1865. In 1867 he was elected Mayor of Liverpool, and was entertained at a banquet by the Law Society—Mr. Thorneley, then president, in the chair. In November, 1877, he was elected president of the Law Society. Upon the occasion of his marriage the members of the legal profession presented him with a silver salver, and the Conservative party presented him with a service of plate worth £750. Upon the occasion of his election they have made him a gift of a carriage and pair of horses. The portrait is from a photograph by Brown, Barnes, and Bell, of Liverpool.

ZAIMUKHT EXPEDITION.

The expedition of Brigadier-General Tytler, V.C., C.B., in December last, against the Zaimukht tribes, who inhabit the valley north of the route



MR. EDWARD WHITLEY, THE NEW M.P. FOR LIVERPOOL.

from Thull to the Khoorum or Kuram, by which General Roberts entered Afghanistan, has obtained but a passing notice. The force under General Tytler's command was made up of four guns of the 1st battery, eighth brigade Royal Artillery Mountain Train Battery, two guns No. 1 Kohat Mountain Battery, the 85th King's Light Infantry, 250 Native Cavalry, and four native regiments—viz., the 4th Punjab Infantry, 13th Native Infantry, 20th Native Infantry, the 29th Punjab Infantry, and a company of Native sappers and miners. There was but one serious conflict, on Dec. 14, at a place called Zawa, eight miles from Chanaruk, among the mountain ranges that separate the Zaimukht Valley, northward, from the abode of the Barak and Zerak Afreedi tribes. Here, in a mountain pass, the precipitous sides of which were intersected with ravines and gorges, interspersed with crags and rocks forming a natural stronghold of the most forbidding aspect, the hostile Zaimukhts and Alisherzais had taken their stand, collecting here their women and children, cattle, and stores of grain. Our Illustration, from a Sketch by a military correspondent, shows the manner in which this place was captured. As General Tytler, with the left column of his force, advanced up the pass, large bodies of the enemy were seen on the heights on both sides, and were effectively shelled by the artillery. Meanwhile parties were sent to the heights and the main body pushed up the river bed. Arriving at the bottom of the pass leading into Zawa, the infantry moved up in single file, under a heavy fire of the enemy and a shower of rocks hurled from three or four thousand feet above. Moving rapidly up the side of the hill, they found on reaching the crest that the path turned sharply round to the left. At this point Lieutenant and Adjutant Renny, of the 4th Punjab Infantry, was mortally



A. The enemy's position, 300 yards distant.

B. Where Lieutenant Renny fell.

C. Party turning the enemy's flank.

wounded while gallantly leading his men, and with him fell four men of his regiment. When the summit of the pass had been gained, the cluster of villages which form the settlement of Zawa appeared below, nestling in a horse-shoe shaped valley, and surrounded with trees. After the troops had been given a short rest parties were detailed to burn the villages. This having been accomplished, the troops commenced their retirement unmolested. General Tytler returned to his standing camp at Chanarak on the 15th, having been joined en route by the right column. A week later, the force marched into Thull, the programme laid down by the Government having been carried out in the short space of a fortnight. The punishment inflicted on the Zaimukhts and Orakzais has been most signal. Besides having twenty villages burnt and seeing their defensive towers blown up even in the villages that were spared, they have been compelled to pay a fine of over 34,000 rupees and to give up over 1000 stand of arms. Their country, never before traversed by a European, has been thoroughly surveyed and opened out. One of the murderers of Lieutenant Kinloch and two men implicated in the outrages committed on our camp followers were apprehended and shot in presence of the tribal representatives and of our own troops. Our communications along this line have now been rendered secure, and the effect of the expedition upon the border tribes has been most salutary.

MUSIC.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

After an unavoidable postponement from Jan. 29, Wagner's "Lohengrin" was produced, for the first time in English, last Saturday evening. The text has been adapted by Mr. J. P. Jackson, by whom the English versions of the same composer's "Flying Dutchman" and "Rienzi" were also specially prepared for Mr. Carl Rosa's company—the task having been, in each case, executed with care and tact. The character of the Knight of the Holy Grail was sustained by Herr Schott, who acted earnestly, and sang the declamatory passages of the music with much effect, especially the address to the nobles, and defiance of Telramund, the demonstrative portions of the Bridal Chamber duet, the recital of Lohengrin's mission of the Holy Grail, and the final parting from Elsa. Miss Julia Gaylord, as Elsa, had to contend with the unavoidable recollections of the exceptionally fine performances of Mesdames Christine Nilsson and Albani in the same character. Nevertheless, Miss Gaylord achieved a genuine success, although not reaching the same high standard as that attained by the two exceptional artists just referred to. The recital of Elsa's dream was gracefully rendered, as were the soliloquy on the balcony in the second act and the various love passages with Lohengrin; considerable dramatic effect having been evinced in several instances, among others, in the great duet with Lohengrin in the last act.

Miss Josephine Yorke declaimed the music of Ortrud with judicious emphasis, especially in her share of the important duet with Telramund and in the passages in which she menaces Elsa. Mr. Ludwig was a very efficient representative of Telramund, both vocally and dramatically; and the parts of the King and the Herald were satisfactorily filled, respectively, by Mr. G. Conly and Mr. Leslie Crotty.

The orchestral and choral portions of the score of "Lohengrin" are of more than usual importance, and they were admirably rendered—indeed, the general performance of the opera was of more equal merit than in some instances of its representation by our Italian opera companies. The scenery and stage appointments were also excellent. Mr. Randegger conducted with great skill and judgment.

"Faust" was given on the preceding Thursday, with Miss Gaylord as Margaret, Miss J. Yorke as Siebel, Mr. Packard as Faust, Mr. Conly as Mephistopheles, and Mr. Ludwig as Valentine.

"Lohengrin" was announced for repetition on Monday and this (Saturday) afternoon; the other performances of the week having been of operas recently noticed. Mr. Carl Rosa has the gratification to announce that he has obtained permission from the authorities of the Royal Opera, Hanover, for the appearance of Herr A. Schott in an extra performance of Lohengrin, which will take place on Monday, Feb. 18. The season is to terminate with the end of next week. An English version of Verdi's "Aida" is to be produced on Tuesday.

THE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.

As briefly announced last week, the sixty-eighth season of this institution opened on the Thursday evening, when two overtures were given for the first time here—that by Mr. Walter Macfarren, avowedly intended "to idealise the classical story of Hero and Leander," and one by the late Hermann Goetz, entitled "Frühling." Mr. Macfarren's overture was produced at Mr. Kuhe's Brighton festival of last year. It is a cleverly written work, somewhat diffuse and fragmentary in structure, but containing some effective points, and well instrumented throughout.

Herr Goetz's overture is as little suggestive of the poetical notions of Spring as could well be. It contains few passages of any interest, and is laboured and strained in style, with some instances of confused complexity in its incidental elaborations. The orchestral writing is skilful in its effects of contrast and climax, and whatever impression the overture may produce is chiefly, if not entirely, due to this feature.

Beethoven's splendid Seventh Symphony in A was the most important item of the concert, which included fine performances of Signor Piatti's Second Concerto for the violoncello by himself, and of Schumann's piano-forte concerto in A minor by Madame Montigny-Rémaury. Miss Robertson's brilliant vocalisation was very successfully displayed in Weber's fine scena, "Inez de Castro," and the flimsy "Valse aria" from Gounod's "Romeo et Juliette." Mr. Cusins was well received, as usual, on taking his accustomed place at the conductor's desk, this being the fourteenth year of his tenure of the office. The second concert is to take place on Thursday next.

After singing successively (and successfully) at several of the London Ballad Concerts, Mr. Sims Reeves was prevented, by the ill-effects of the exceptional weather, from contributing to last week's programme. Among the artists present was Madame Trebelli, who sang with great effect in the "Brindisi" from "Lucrezia Borgia," and for the encore an air from "Carmen," which had to be repeated. These were in the second part of the concert, which consisted entirely of operatic pieces, comprising selections from the composer just named, Mozart, Weber, Meyerbeer, Benedict, and Wallace; in which Misses M. Davies and M. McKenzie, Mr. E. Lloyd, Mr. Santley, Mr. Maybrick, Mr. A. Moore, and the gentlemen of the London Vocal Union were heard—most of them having contributed to the miscellaneous first part of the concert. Pianoforte solos, brilliantly played by Madame Frickenhaus, were special features in the programme. There was no concert this week, on account of Ash Wednesday. The eleventh performance of the series takes place next Wednesday.

The Sacred Harmonic Society's performance of "St. Paul"—yesterday (Friday) week—was especially effective in the choral portions; all-important features in the first of Mendelssohn's two great oratorios. The solos were effectively sung by Mrs. Osgood, Miss Julia Elton, Mr. Shakspeare (in replacement of Mr. E. Lloyd), and Mr. Santley. Mendelssohn's "Lobgesang" ("Hymn of Praise") and Spohr's "Last Judgment" are announced for March 5.

The Highbury Philharmonic Society gave the second concert of the season at the Highbury Athenaeum on Monday evening, when the programme included Mr. Arthur Sullivan's "Kenilworth," besides a miscellaneous selection.

The annual Ash Wednesday performance of "The Messiah" by the Royal Albert Hall Choral Society—directed by Mr. Barnby—took place this week, the solo singers announced having been Mesdames Lemmens-Sherrington and Patey, Mr. B. Lane, and Signor Foli.

Of the opening concert of the twenty-fifth and last season of Mr. Henry Leslie's Choir—on Thursday evening—we must speak next week. The programme included Bach's sublime motet for double choir, "Sing ye to the Lord," Schubert's psalm for female voices, "The Lord is my Shepherd," and Mendelssohn's noble psalm for eight-part choir, "Judge me, O God."

As already announced, Mr. Kuhe's Brighton Festival opens next Tuesday evening, when the programme will comprise Mr. H. Leslie's Biblical pastoral, "The First Christmas Morn," composed expressly for the occasion, and Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise." Of these and of subsequent proceedings we must speak hereafter.

A young lady, who bears a name honoured in literature, and who has herself shown by her contributions to the press that she has inherited much of her father's poetic genius, has recently, under the name of "Rose Trevor," made a successful appearance as a public singer at the orchestral concerts in connection with the Edinburgh Choral Union. The local press are unanimous in their praise, and speak most highly of Miss Rose Trevor's débüt.

THEATRES.

In the general complaint that the poetical drama is neglected it appears to have been overlooked that we have one poet amongst us who, both in town and country, is producing metrical dramas in rapid succession. We allude to Mr. G. W. Wills, the author of "Charles I.," "Eugene Aram," and "Jane Shore," who only the other day supplied Mr. Charles Dillon with a new play for the provinces, and during the past week has had acted in London at the Duke's another new play, called "Forced from Home," besides producing at the Adelphi a drama on Saturday of a more ambitious kind, entitled "Ninon."

We might ask, not invidiously, why these efforts, several of them aspiring to the character of poems, are not cited as examples to prove that the poetical drama is not left unencouraged by managers? To say nothing of the exceptional way in which some of these pieces have been placed on the boards, and the eccentric circles that they have described in provincial tourings, an awkward impression has been made on the critical mind, from some peculiarities both in subject and structure. The political bias of some, and the merely popular interest of others, affects the quality of the interest that they are calculated to excite, and invest them with an equivocal character that fails to satisfy the demand for the highest excellence.

In the two plays now before us the author aims at two kinds of success, that appeal to the mind under very different conditions. In the first drama, "Forced from Home," the aim is to place before the audience such a play as might please on the Victorian stage, or attract a Surrey audience. The author condescends, both in his story and dialogue, to the commonplaces of transpontine melodrama, and courts applause by the ordinary claptrap of stereotyped and sometimes merely vulgar sentiment. Mr. Wills seems to have laid himself out for more than one kind of play, and to count it a merit to conciliate the taste of the patrons of the lower as well as the higher class theatres. He would fain at the Duke's rival the popularity of "New Babylon" by painting the familiar manners of mediocre people and accepting such incidents as have gained applause at inferior places of entertainment. It is, therefore, that in his new venture it is possible he may obtain the same kind and extent of patronage that befell the eccentric drama which it has replaced. But, in proportion to its success, the reputation of the author suffers.

With "Ninon," however, an endeavour is successfully made at something more ambitious. The character of Ninon, represented by Miss Wallis, is of high tragic intensity, with just the contrast in situation that accumulates the acting interest. Ninon has devoted herself to vengeance on a man for conduct of which it ultimately turns out that he is perfectly innocent. The two situations mutually enhance the effect and lead to a combination that, in the hands of a great actress, would be overwhelming. Miss Wallis did her best, and succeeded in the proportion she was enabled to reach by her natural powers. Fortunately for her, the part was not one of imperial dignity. The heroine is not a princess, but a poor sempstress, who is led to believe that St. Cyr has ruined her sister, who had consequently committed suicide. Her father, an artisan named Bagot, imposes on her the task of revenging that sister's death, and suggests also the method of doing it. Acting on his instructions, attired as an aristocrat, she causes herself to be hunted by revolutionary hags through the streets, from whom she is rescued by St. Cyr. Borne by him to his own residence, she improves the opportunity by learning his political secrets, and seeks to obtain evidence of his treachery to the Republic, and thereby compass his destruction. Thus we are led into the midst of the horrors of the French Revolution, until the individual interest is nearly lost in the political. By way of compensation much bustle and tumult, mob rioting and melodramatic situation, are obtained. But the real interest remains with Ninon and St. Cyr, who is readily victimised by her charms, and falls within the danger of her wiles. At last, she discovers the mistake she has made, and also that her heart pleads in favour of the man whom she has been engaged in betraying. And now the course of feeling has to be changed in order to secure his safety. It is needful that they should marry; and this has to be explained while the crowd is storming at the doors. The audience were highly interested in the scene, and some shortcomings of the denouement were overlooked in the excitement produced. The triumph, in fact, of the author was complete.

At the Royalty on Saturday Miss Jennie Lee reappeared in her original character of Jo, a part which has been found to have such interest with sympathetic spectators that its frequent repetition is desirable.

At the Royal Connaught Mr. George Rignold invites his admirers to witness his well-known performance of Amos Clarke, with which in part the reputation of this meritorious actor is identified.

Last Saturday at the Imperial an afternoon performance of "The Vicar of Wakefield" took place. In the evening at the Vaudeville "The School for Scandal" was substituted for the new play, and was cordially received.

"Castle Botherem; or, An Irish Stew," is the title of a new first part to be produced next Monday by Mr. and Mrs. German Reed at St. George's Hall. The piece is from the pen of Mr. Arthur Law; the music by Hamilton Clarke. Mr. Corney Grain's clever sketch, "Our Table d'Hôte," and the favourite afterpiece, "Back from India," will complete the programme.

WILLS AND BEQUESTS.

The will (dated Jan. 7, 1878) of Mr. Martin Goldstein, late of No. 126, Piccadilly, who died on the 6th ult., was proved on the 30th ult. by James Hodson, Edward Samuel Lassen, Gustav Roskill, and Paul Nathan Hardy, the executors, the personal estate being sworn under £300,000. After bequeathing £500 to each of his executors free of legacy duty, the testator leaves the residue of his real and personal estate in equal shares between the sons and daughters of his late sister Amalia Koeline, most of whom then, he believed, resided at Danzig, the widow and daughters of his late brother Elckau Wolff Goldstein, also then residing at Danzig, and his sister Friedericke Rosenberg, then residing at Berlin, and her daughters; and he declares that should any of his nephews and nieces predecease him leaving issue, such issue are to take their parents' share.

The will (dated Dec. 5, 1878) with four codicils (dated Feb. 8, April 30, July 4, and Oct. 27, 1879) of Mr. Charles Arkcoll, late of Maidstone, Kent, who died on Dec. 27 last, was proved on the 2nd inst. by Thomas Arkcoll, the brother, and Daniel Prince Loe, the executors, the personal estate being sworn under £180,000. The testator leaves to his wife, Mrs. Jane Arkcoll, £1000, and his residence, Rocky Hill, with the furniture and effects, and £1500 per annum during life or widowhood; to his son John, £10,000, and the freehold premises in Stone-street, Maidstone, where his business is carried on, subject to the payment of £400 per annum towards the annuity to his wife; upon trust for each of his daughters, Susan, Lucy, and Kate, £14,000; upon trust for each of his daughters, Jeannette, Fanny, and Alice, £12,000; and there are other provisions in favour of his unmarried daughters until marriage; legacies to his executors, the male and female persons employed in his business and at his residence, and others. The residue of all his property, including his brewery at Chatham, he gives to his son Charles.

The will (dated Dec. 13, 1879) of Mr. William Durham, late of Wilton Lodge, Addison-road, Kensington, who died on the 11th ult., was proved on the 26th ult. by Charles Durham, the son, Henry Openshaw, and James Frederick Delmar, the executors, the personal estate being sworn under £120,000. The testator bequeaths to the St. Barnabas, Kensington, Charitable and Provident Fund, £100; to his wife, Mrs. Lydia Durham, £750, and £3000 per annum and his residence, with the furniture, effects, horses and carriages, for life; legacies to his grandchildren and others, and also to his late and present servants. The residue of the annual income of the personal estate during the life of his wife is to be paid to his three daughters, Mrs. Frances Sophia Ellen Openshaw, Mrs. Adeline Elizabeth Delmar, and Mrs. Frances Agnes Peirce; on the death of their mother, £27,500 is to be set aside upon trust for each of them; and he appoints his said son Charles residuary legatee.

The will (dated Aug. 12, 1878) with a codicil (dated March 6, 1879) of Mrs. Elizabeth Barnett, late of No. 25, Chester-terrace, Regent's Park, who died on Dec. 14 last, was proved on the 14th ult. by Preston Karslake and John Rahere Paget, the acting executors, the personal estate being sworn under £70,000. The testatrix bequeaths £3400, subject to certain trusts in favour of Emily Maria Snowling, between the School for the Indigent Blind, St. George's-fields, Southwark, and the Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind, Oxford-street and Euston-road; £200 each to the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic, Queen-square, Bloomsbury, and University College Hospital, Gower-street; and many legacies and memorial rings to friends and annuities to servants. All her real estate and the residue of her personal estate she gives to her niece, Miss Louisa Pye.

The will (dated June 2, 1877) of Mr. Charles Falconer, late of No. 21, Park-crescent, Portland-place, who died on Dec. 13 last, was proved on the 15th ult. by Joseph Prestwich and Miss Margaret Milne (the niece), the surviving executors, the personal estate in the United Kingdom being sworn under £70,000. The testator bequeaths £500 to the trustees of a sum of £1000 bequeathed by his late brother, Alexander Falconer, for the purpose of founding a museum of objects of art and science at Forres, N.B., for the use of the said museum; and legacies to his sisters and others. As to the residue of his property, real and personal, he leaves one fourth upon trust for his niece Mrs. Grace Anne Prestwich, her husband and children, and the other three fourths between his nieces Miss Isabella Milne, Miss Margaret Milne, and Miss Louisa Elizabeth Milne.

The will (dated Aug. 1, 1876) with three codicils (dated Dec. 23 and Dec. 24, 1879) of Mr. Edward William Cooke, R.A., late of Glen Andred, Groombridge, Sussex, who died on the 4th ult., was proved on the 24th ult. by Robert Hannah, the acting executor, the personal estate being sworn under £35,000. Among other legacies, the testator gives £2000 to the Royal Academy of Arts upon trust for the president and council to apply the dividends at their uncontrolled discretion by way of donations or annuities to any two painters in water colour or oil, not being members or associates of the Royal Academy, if sixty years of age, and from age, sickness, or other cause standing in need of assistance; £500 to the Artists' Benevolent Fund, for the benefit of the widows and orphans of the members of the annuity fund; and £500 to the Artists' General Benevolent Institution. Provision is made for his son George Edward Cooke, and for his mother and sisters, and the residue of his real and personal estate is to be held upon trust for his son Conrad William Cooke.

The will (dated Oct. 7, 1879) of Mr. John Laing, formerly of Buenos Ayres, but late of No. 124, Westbourne-terrace, Hyde Park, who died on Nov. 25 last, was proved on the 14th ult. by Mrs. Harriet Laing, the widow, Robert Romanes, and John Macfarie Anderson, the executors, the personal estate being sworn under £20,000.

The will (dated July 11, 1872) of the Hon. Sir Edward Deas Thomson, K.C.M.G., C.B., a member of the Legislative Council of New South Wales, late of Barham Hall, Sydney, who died on July 16 last, was proved in London on the 16th ult. by Donald Larnech and Robert Morgan Young, the attorneys of the executors, the personal estate being sworn under £3000.

The will (dated Oct. 10, 1877) of Miss Martha Charters Somerville, late of Florence, who died on Nov. 3 last, was proved in London on the 14th ult. by Montagu Yeats Brown,

the acting executor, the personal estate in England being sworn under £3000. Among numerous other legacies the testatrix bequeaths £2500 to the National Life-Boat Institution, John-street, Adelphi, for the purpose of building and supporting a life-boat on such part of the coast of Great Britain where it may be most required, such life-boat to be called the "Mary Somerville," in memory of her late mother; £200 free of duty to the Society in London for the protection of animals liable to vivisection of which the Earl of Shaftesbury is president and Miss Francis Power Cobbe secretary; and the portrait in crayon of her mother, by James Swinton, with the frame carved by herself, to the National Portrait Gallery.

The will of the late Mr. John Torr, M.P., was proved at Chester on the 5th inst. by the Rev. William E. Torr, his eldest son, and his son-in-law, Mr. Charles John Bushell, the trustees and executors, and guardians of the property of Herbert James Torr, the youngest son of the testator—the personality being sworn under £250,000. Tuesday's *Liverpool Mercury* says the principal bequest of a public character is one of £10,000—in case he should not in his lifetime have given the sum of £10,000 or any larger or smaller sum—as a contribution for the endowment of a new bishopric, on condition that such new bishopric should be legally founded in his lifetime or before the expiration of seven years from his decease; or, in case he should in his lifetime have given for the endowment of the bishopric any moneys not amounting to £10,000, he bequeathed a sum of money equal to the difference between the £10,000 and the moneys he should have so given. To the trustees of the Church school at Eastham he bequeaths £100, the annual income arising from which is to be applied to the benefit of the school; and he directs that three sums of nineteen guineas each shall be distributed on the Christmas immediately succeeding his death to the poor of the parish of Eastham, and of the parishes of Raby and Aylesby, in Lincolnshire. There are several bequests to relatives and to servants. Among the former are legacies of £10,000 to each of his daughters, Catherine Ann Bushell and Louisa Knight-Bruce, and one of £5000 to his eldest son. Included in the latter are a bequest of £500 to the testator's farm manager, Charles William Tindall, and one of £100 to Samuel Edwards, a clerk in the office of Messrs. Littledale, Liverpool, a firm in which Mr. Torr was for many years a partner. His Cheshire estates he leaves to his eldest son, and his Lincolnshire estates in trust for his second son.

A bequest of about £30,000 has been left by Miss Janet Marshall, of Bridge of Allan, who died a few days ago, for the establishment of an industrial training institution for destitute boys in the counties of Lanark and Stirling.

At a public meeting held at the Albert Institute, Windsor, on Monday night, Mr. Buckland, hon. secretary, announced that the sum required to enable the committee to accept the offer of Mr. Charsley towards the liquidation of the debt on the building had been subscribed.

The arrivals of live stock and fresh meat from the United States and Canada last week were considerably above those of the previous weeks, the totals being—1901 head of cattle, 201 sheep, 158 pigs, 12,487 quarters of beef, 2226 carcasses of mutton, and 409 dead pigs.

A terrible accident has occurred at Beykoz, near Constantinople. The troops stationed at the former place invited a regiment in the capital to a fête, and while the festivities were proceeding the barrack, a building three stories high, fell in. Two hundred of the soldiers are reported to be killed and three hundred injured.

Some alarm was caused in Plymouth on Monday by the perilous position of the Australian steamer Hankow, from Sydney, which had anchored outside the breakwater during a heavy gale, with her engines disabled, and was unable to enter the port. She was ultimately towed in, and it is believed has sustained no serious injury.

We learn from the *Photographic News* that the first photograph taken in the camera in this country of which we have any record was of Kew Church, in 1827 or 1828, by Nicéphore Niépce, and this historical picture, according to one of the best—if not the best—living authority, Mr. Robert Hunt, F.R.S., should exist to this day in the British Museum. The date is fixed by the residence in this country of Nicéphore Niépce, who lived at Kew. There is a story attached to this photograph which is well worth repeating. In 1828 Niépce went to the Royal Society of London and asked permission to lay the results of his invention before them, but the Society, through their secretary, declined the proposal unless Niépce communicated all the details of his process. This the French philosopher refused to do, and relations were broken off. Years afterwards, when Daguerre's invention was declared through the length and breadth of the land, a sun picture was shown to Faraday at the Royal Institution, with the remark that he had never seen anything of the sort before: "Yes, I have," said Faraday; "I was shown a picture of Kew Church by a Frenchman, who told me 'it took itself.'" The Kew Church picture was taken with bitumen of Judea, as we know, while Daguerre's photograph was upon silver, and therefore very different; but Faraday's testimony, added to that of Mr. Bauer, the secretary of the Royal Society, did much in influencing the French Government to grant a pension to the son of Niépce, at the same time that Daguerre was accorded that honour.

The fine engraving, by Mr. Thomas O. Barlow, A.R.A., of Mr. Millais' picture, "Effie Deans," has been published by Messrs. Thomas Agnew and Sons. This picture cannot be forgotten by those who have seen it. The subject is one most difficult to treat with a view to the moral impression that should be made by an artist desiring to condemn and arrest the evil so touchingly exemplified in the situation of the young girl. But Mr. Millais has perfectly succeeded in this design; and the engraver, Mr. Barlow, has fully entered into the spirit of the work; so that none of its truth of feeling has been lost in the reproduction. The figure of poor Effie is represented here as bowed down in deep distress; her head pressing on her relaxed arm, while the other hand, in passionate agony, has torn her maiden snood down from its place of honour. Meantime, the young man Robertson, with some gentleness of manner, though her condition is a terrible satire on his tenderness, looks into the eye that might well consume his soul with its burning pang, and vainly tries, with flattering promises, and with hollow words of comfort, that seem to curdle on his tongue, to help where there is no alleviation of sorrow. Nor does the faithful collie seem free from the influence of Effie's grief and despair. He has lost his vivacity and playfulness; and, in a panting silence which is almost human, the sagacious creature lifts his eye, as if to discover what it is that forbids his gambols. The whole scene, with their place of meeting, which is most appropriate, is pervaded by this expression of sadness. The engraving is worthy of the picture, and should be widely accepted by the public.

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

All communications relating to this department of the Paper should be addressed to the Editor, and have the word "Chess" written on the envelope. G H (Gainsford-street).—1. Mr. Murphy is still living; 2. The "Theory of the Openings" can be obtained only from Mrs. Gossip, East Bergholt, Suffolk; 3. Such a book as you describe would be interesting and valuable if treated by competent hands. H H (Belsize Park).—The answer to 1. P to B 4th, in Problem No. 1874, is 2. Q to Kt 7th (ch), and 3. Q to Kt 3rd, Mate. H F W (Faversham).—You are probably right, but we have not the book at hand, and it is not by any means a standard work on the subject of chess. B C M S (Mildmay Park).—One of your problems cannot be solved in the way you propose, 1. B to B 7th, because of the reply, 1. B to B 5th (ch); but there is a common-place solution by 1. Q to B 5th (ch). The other shall be examined. J M (Westminster).—A very pretty little game, and we are much obliged to you for it. E MARDEN.—There is a mate in three moves by 1. B to Q 4th, 2. R to R sq, 3. R to R 6th. We shall be glad to hear from you. J T (Eton).—Please to re-examine your three-move problem. How about 1. Kt to Q 3rd, the continuation being the same as in your own solution?

ALPHA.—We were of your opinion until last week. Look at 1. B to Q 3rd again. G D B (Hull).—It is too easy of solution, because it lacks the essential quality of a two-move problem, variety of plausible attack. We shall be glad to hear from you again, however.

W J S (New York).—We are much indebted to you for the full and early reports of the Congress. The newspapers were specially interesting.

CORRECT SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 1874 received from A. Snelson, F. Webb, Robert Shaw, F. A. Bright, C. Herbert, H. Hickman, J. Tucker, M. D. B., and Boltsbridge.

CORRECT SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 1875 received from Lilly and Conrade, W. T. R., D. Digamma, J. Bumstead, J. W. R. (Denny), H. Hickman, W. Gonzalez, J. Tucker, Orazio, M. D. B., M. H. Moorhouse, Trial, C. H. Costa, and L. S. D.

CORRECT SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 1876 received from H. B., J. R. Dow, T. Greenbank, Hereward, An Old Hand, W. C. D. Smith, R. Ingersoll, R. H. Brooks, R. Jones, J. Ally, and Conrade, Cant, Kitten, E. L. G. M. O'Halloran, J. Tucker, D. W. Kell, Lorna, H. Langford, Helen Lee, M. H. Moorhouse, E. Elsley, S. Farrant, D. Templeton, Elsie, R. Gray, E. J. Johnson, G. L. Mayne, Trial, M. D. B., T. Barrington, Orazio, N. Cator, Wanstead, L. Sharswood, B. L. Dyke, Nerina, Ben Nevis, G. Fosbrooke, E. H. V., Copiagino, Shadforth, East Marden, P. Le Page, A. E. Old, C. J. Stephen, Dr. F. St. Pops, W. M. Curtis, J. W. R. (Denny), H. Hickman, W. Biddle, W. B. Wood, J. J. Tassell, H. Stebbing, Smut, R. H. Brewster, and L. S. D.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 1875.

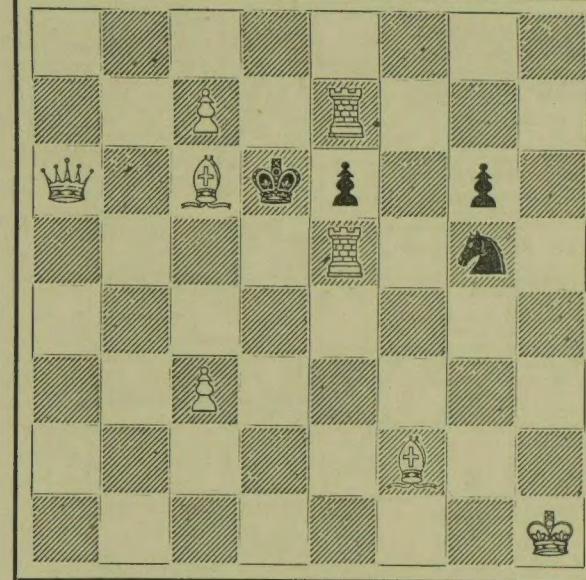
WHITE.	BLACK.
1. Q to R 8th	B to B 2nd*
2. R takes P (ch)	B takes R
3. Q to Q R 8th. Mate.	

* If 1. B to K R 2nd, then 2. Q takes R, &c.

PROBLEM NO. 1878.

By JAMES PIERCE, M.A.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play, and mate in two moves.

THE AMERICAN CHESS CONGRESS.

The final round in the grand tourney was played on the 25th and 26th ult., and it resulted in a tie between Messrs. Mackenzie and Grundy for the first prize. Mohle being third, Sellman fourth, and Judd last on the list of prize winners. The following table shows the total score of all the competitors:—

	Won.	Drawn.	Lost.	Score.
Grundy	2	13½
Mohle	2	13½
Sellman	3	13
Judd	...	9	5	11
Delmar	...	8	7	9½
Ryan	...	5	1	5½
Ware	...	4	3	11
Congdon	...	2	3	3½
Cohnfeld	...	2	1	2½
	73	34	73	90

On the conclusion of the rounds, it was at once arranged that the tie should be played off on the 29th ult., but, owing to some differences, which were eventually reconciled by the committee of management, the play was postponed to Saturday, Jan. 31, the winner of two games, draws not counting, to take the first prize. The five prizes are, respectively:—First, 500 dolls. and a gold medal; second, 300 dolls.; third, 200 dolls.; fourth, 100 dolls.; fifth, 50 dolls. A banquet was held on the 27th, and on the next day a meeting of the subscribers assembled and a society to be known as the Chess Association of the United States of America was formed. Colonel Fellowes was appointed president, Mr. H. C. Allen, secretary, and Mr. J. D. Bengless, treasurer. A new code of laws, differing slightly from the Praxis rules, was submitted to this meeting by Mr. Thomas Frere, and formally adopted. The result of the tie will be announced in our next issue.

THE COUNTIES CHESS ASSOCIATION.

Played in the first-class Tournament by Messrs. SKIPWORTH and THOROLD. (Irregular Opening.)

WHITE (Mr. S.)	BLACK (Mr. T.)	WHITE (Mr. S.)	BLACK (Mr. T.)
1. P to Q B 4th	P to K B 4th	25. R takes B	
2. P to K 3rd	Kt to K B 3rd		
3. Kt to Q B 3rd	P to K 3rd		
4. P to Q R 3rd	P to Q Kt 3rd		
5. P to Q 4th	B to Kt 2nd	26. Q to B 5th	P takes R
6. Kt to B 3rd	B to K 2nd	27. K to R 2nd	R to K 8th (ch)
7. B to Q 3rd	Castles	28. Q takes Q	Q to K 4th (ch)
8. Castles	Kt to K 5th	29. Kt to B 7th (ch)	K to Kt sq
9. Q to B 2nd	Kt takes Kt	30. Kt takes R	P takes Kt
10. P takes Kt	Q to K sq	31. K to Kt 3rd	
11. P to Q 5th	Q to R 4th		
12. P to K 4th	P takes K P		
13. B takes P	B to Q 3rd		
Even in a close opening Mr. Thorold's desire for attack is shown early; he now threatens 14. R takes Kt and 15. Q takes K R P, mate.			
14. R to Q sq	Kt to R 3rd	25. R to B 5th	
15. B to K 3rd	Q R to K sq	26. R to B 2nd	
16. P to K R 3rd	Kt to B 4th	27. R to Q 5th	
17. B takes Kt	P takes B	28. K to B 3rd	
18. Q R to Kt sq	B to R sq	29. R to Q 7th (ch)	
19. Kt to K sq	K to R sq	30. K to R 3rd	P to Q 4th
20. P takes P	B takes B	31. R to Q B sq	
21. Q takes B	P takes P	32. P to B 3rd	
22. Q to K 4th	Q to K 4th	33. R to B 3rd	
23. Kt to B 3rd	Q takes P	34. R to K 4th	
24. Kt to Kt 5th	R to K 2nd	35. K to B 2nd	

An unfortunate error, which, literally, throws the game away. As White subsequently pointed out, 31. R to Kt 7th would have given him, at least, a draw.

31. R to Kt 7th (ch) and wins.

The advance of the Pawns is decisive.

37. P takes P (ch) K takes P

38. R to K 3rd P to B 5th

39. P to K R 4th P to K R 4th

40. K to R 3rd R to Q 6th,

and wins.

The ties in the first-class tourney of this association were played off last week, and the prizes have fallen to Messrs. Wayte, Skipworth, and Ranken, in the order named. In playing off the tie in the second-class tourney Master H. Jackson, of Dewsbury (sixteen years of age), won the first, and Mr. Tudor, of Yorkshire, the second, prize.

Mr. Sheriff Woolloton presided yesterday week at the distribution of prizes and certificates awarded by the London Schools Swimming Club. After speeches from Miss Richardson and Dr. Gladstone, who introduced respectively the girls and boys, they received their prizes from the Lady Mayoress.

OBITUARY.

SIR G. HAMILTON SEYMOUR.

The Right Hon. Sir George Hamilton Seymour, G.C.B., G.C.H., P.C., died at his residence, 10, Grosvenor-crescent, on the 2nd inst., aged eighty-three. He was only son of Lord George Seymour, by Isabella, his wife, daughter of the Hon. and Rev. George Hamilton, and was grandson of Francis, first Marquis of Hertford, K.G., Lord Lieutenant of Ireland in 1765, by Isabella, his wife, daughter of Charles, second Duke of Grafton. He graduated at Oxford in 1818; and, having entered the Diplomatic Service, was successively Secretary of Legation at Frankfort in 1823, at Stuttgart in 1826, and at Berlin in 1828. In 1829 he became Secretary of Embassy at Constantinople, in 1830 Minister Resident at Florence, from 1836 to 1846 Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Brussels, from 1846 to 1851 at Lisbon, and from 1851 to 1854 at St. Petersburg. His last appointment was that of Ambassador at Vienna, which he received in 1855 and resigned in 1858. Sir Hamilton was British Minister to the Czar at the outbreak of the Crimean War, and represented the Court of St. James's in the Conferences and Congress of Vienna that followed that war. He was made G.C.H. in 1836, G.C.B. in 1847, and a Privy Councillor in 1855. He married, July 21, 1831, Gertrude, third daughter of Henry, twenty-first Lord Dacre, and leaves four sons and three daughters, of whom the eldest, Augusta, is Lady Delamere.

MAJOR MYLES O'REILLY.

Major Myles William Patrick O'Reilly, of Knock Abbey, in the county of Louth, J.P. and D.L., High Sheriff 1848, late M.P. for the county of Longford, Assistant-Commissioner of Intermediate Education, Ireland, died on the 6th inst., at 14, Fitzwilliam-place, Dublin. He was born in 1825, the son of William O'Reilly, Esq., of Knock Abbey, in the county of Louth, by Margaret, his wife, daughter of Dowell O'Reilly, Esq., of The Heath House, Queen's County, and represented a branch of the great Celtic family of O'Reilly, of East Brefny. He received his education at St. Cuthbert's College, Ushaw, and at the University of London, where he graduated B.A. in 1846. Subsequently he took the degree of LL.D. at Rome. He was formerly Captain in the Louth Militia, and served as Major in the Papal army, being required by the Grand Cross of Pius. Major O'Reilly sat in Parliament, in the extreme Liberal interest, for the county of Longford from 1862 to 1879, and in the latter year succeeded the Rev. Dr. Molloy as Assistant Commissioner of Intermediate Education in Ireland. He was author of "Education in Ireland," "Progress of Catholicity in the Nineteenth Century," and "Principles of Freedom Applied to the Tenure of Land." He married, in 1859, Ida, daughter of the late Edmund Jerningham, Esq., of Rutland-gate, and by her (who died 1878) leaves four sons and two daughters.

We have also to record the deaths of—

The Rev. Thomas Simpson Evans, M.A., Vicar of Shore-ditch since 1841, on the 30th ult., in his eighty-second year.

Robert Baker, C.B., late Inspector of Factories, at Leamington, on the 6th inst., in his seventy-seventh year.

